

U.S. BACK TO WORK

At 11th Hour, Republicans Blink In Standoff

Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-Ohio) pumps his fist as he leaves a House meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, Oct. 16, 2013. Congressional Republican leaders conceded defeat Wednesday in their budget fight with President Barack Obama over the new health care law, agreeing to support a reopening of the government and a lifting of the nation's borrowing authority in exchange for future budget negotiations.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

Republicans divided on Cruz, Lee after compromise

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bipartisan compromise to avoid a financial default and end the U.S. government shutdown cast an uncomfortable spotlight on the two hardcore conservative senators who precipitated the crises with their quest to gut President Barack Obama's health care law.

Senators Ted Cruz of Texas and Mike Lee of Utah are facing the wrath of Republicans leaders who repeatedly had warned them against their quixotic efforts. But those party leaders are taking little pleasure in saying "I-told-you-so." The final deal hardly nicked the law known as "Obamacare," while the shutdown and near default left the Republican Party reeling.

"Our numbers have gone down. Obamacare's somehow mysteriously have gone up. And other than that, this has been great," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican, with a heavy dose of sarcasm.

"The way we're behaving and the path we've taken in the last couple of weeks leads to a marginalized party in the eyes of the American people."

Cruz, who at one point during the standoff staged a 21-hour marathon speech against the health law, was unapologetic.

"This battle will continue to provide real relief for the millions of Americans who are hurting, who right now still don't have a voice in the United States Senate," said Cruz, surrounded by a pack of reporters.

His defiance has been wildly cheered by outside conservative groups that have made money on the months-long dispute and the far right flank that hails Cruz and Lee for what they call a principled, courageous stand.

The contrasting views on Lee and Cruz expose how deeply divided the Republican Party has become, especially since losing the 2012 presidential election. The two senators represent a hardcore wing backed

by the small-government tea party movement, which gained momentum after Obama's 2008 election and is wildly popular in overwhelmingly conservative congressional districts. More pragmatic lawmakers fear the tea partiers are pushing the Republican Party too far to the

ing the fight and collected nearly \$800,000 for his political action committee in the past three months.

"I think Ted Cruz and Mike Lee did exactly the job that those of us who helped them get elected" wanted them to do, said Drew Ryun of the Madison Project, one of the first

ington.

Compromise has never been part of the vocabulary for Lee, who was elected in 2010, or Cruz, a member of the Senate for some 10 months.

The two have been relegated to the sidelines during the Senate negotiations. Neither was part of a



Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, walks with security after talking to reporters as news emerged that leaders reached a last-minute agreement to avert a threatened Treasury default and reopen the government after a partial, 16-day shutdown, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013. Cruz said he would not try to block the agreement.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

right to remain competitive in national elections.

Republicans nearly universally oppose the 3-year-old health care law, which aims to extend affordable coverage to millions of Americans now uninsured. They argue that taxes associated with the program are costing jobs and they especially object to a requirement that all Americans have health insurance or face a tax.

Cruz and Lee encouraged the Republican-controlled House of Representatives to try to cripple "Obamacare" through provisions attached to a temporary funding bill needed to keep the government running past Oct. 1.

The ensuing standoff with the Democratic-controlled Senate prompted the partial government shutdown and grew to encompass legislation needed to avoid the first debt default in U.S. history.

Cruz, a potential presidential candidate in 2016, seized the headlines dur-

ing the fight and collected nearly \$800,000 for his political action committee in the past three months.

Among Senate Republicans, Cruz and Lee are near pariahs, publicly slammed for a tactic that has taken a heavy toll on the Republican standing. The latest Washington Post-ABC News poll showed three-quarters of Americans disapproving of the way congressional Republicans were handling the budget.

"What did I say three weeks ago, what did I say a month ago, it was a fool's errand," said Sen. John McCain, a former presidential candidate, waving a copy of the latest poll for reporters clustered in the Senate basement earlier this week. "I knew that it was going to be a disaster and it is a disaster."

The Houston Chronicle newspaper published an editorial lamenting its endorsement of Cruz's Senate bid last year, saying he has turned out to be "part of the problem" in Wash-

bipartisan group that jump-started talks. The two even skipped Tuesday's weekly closed-door Republican luncheon.

In private, Republicans have been dismissive and confrontational with Cruz, according to lawmakers and congressional aides. At one meeting, Cruz presented his own poll numbers and argued that Republicans weren't suffering despite the overwhelming evidence suggesting they were, prompting eye-rolling from his colleagues.

Yet for all the internal back-biting, Cruz stands as the Teflon tea partier, winning over conservatives.

At the Values Voter Summit this past weekend, an annual gathering of social conservatives and evangelicals, participants echoed Cruz and Lee's determination not to back down.

Lee brought activists to their feet when he said he was still working with Cruz to strip money from the law. □

Short-term debt deal won't mask challenges ahead

C. BABINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hold the champagne.

Even after lawmakers complete their pending deal to avert a federal default and fully reopen the government, they are likely to return to their grinding brand of brinkmanship — perhaps repeatedly.

Wednesday's self-congratulations notwithstanding, congressional talks are barely touching the underlying causes of debt-and-spending stalemates that pushed the country close to economic crises in 2011, last December and again this month.

At best, lawmakers and the White House will agree to fund the government and raise the debt limit for only a few months.

They also will call for yet another bipartisan effort to address the federal debt's major causes, including restricted revenue growth and entitlement benefits that rise automatically.

And yet, top advocates say they have seen virtually no change in the political dynamics that stymied past efforts for a compromise to end the cycle of brinkmanship and threats to harm the economy.

Republicans still adamantly oppose tax increases. Powerful interest groups and many Democrats still fiercely oppose cuts in social program benefits. And congressional rules still tempt lawmakers to threaten economic havoc — by sending the nation into default — if the opposing party doesn't yield to their demands.

"We're probably going to have to go through this a few more times," said Bob Bixby of the bipartisan Concord Coalition, which advocates budget reforms. Even if a compromise plan this month wins House, Senate and White House approval, Bixby said, it will leave fundamental problems that "they haven't done anything to address."

The best hope, Bixby said. □

Deal lifts markets but does little for the U.S. economy

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The budget agreement Congress reached Wednesday cheered investors and removed the threat of a catastrophic debt default that could have triggered another recession.

Yet the temporary nature of the deal means a cloud will remain over a sluggish U.S. economy that was further slowed by the government's partial shutdown.

Political fights over taxing and spending will persist over the next few months. The risk of another government shutdown and doubts about the government's borrowing authority remain. Businesses and consumers may still spend and invest at the same cautious pace they have since the Great Recession officially ended more than four years ago.

The agreement, expected to be approved by the House and Senate late Wednesday, will reopen the government but only until Jan. 15. The deal would enable the United States to keep borrowing to pay its bills, but not past Feb. 7.

The deal followed a two-week shutdown and came a day before a Treasury Department deadline to raise the nation's \$16.7 trillion debt limit.

"The good news is that we avoid hitting the debt ceiling and all the risks that entails," said Joel Prakken, co-founder of Macroeconomic Advisers, a forecasting firm. "The bad news is ... this hasn't produced any clarity. We're going to be right back at this again after the turn of the year."

The stock market soared on the news. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 206 points. Bond investors celebrated, too. They sharply drove down the yield on the one-month Treasury bill, which would have come due around the time a default could have occurred. And the yield on the 10-year Treasury, a benchmark for rates on mortgages and other loans, fell.

Investors may now turn to what typically moves stock prices: corporate earnings and economic data. Wall Street is in the midst of earnings season.

"We can go back to focusing on the true reason why stocks are higher: the rebound in housing, rising corporate profits, the resurgence in manufacturing," said Doug Cote, chief investment strategist for ING U.S. Investment Management.

Manufacturing growth slowed in the New York region in October, builders were less confident in the housing recovery and growth slowed in four Fed districts. All the reports cited the federal shutdown and impasse over the debt limit as reasons for the declines.

Several companies have also cited the shutdown as a likely drag on sales and earnings. Stanley Black & Decker, the tool maker, on Wednesday lowered its profit forecast for this year.

It blamed, in part, "uncertainty created by the U.S. government's (budget cuts) and shutdown and its impact on business, consumer confidence and spending levels."

Linear Technology, a semiconductor company, on Tuesday lowered its revenue outlook for the final three months of the year because of the shutdown.

The full economic impact could take a month or more to assess because the release of so much economic data has been delayed. And Drew Matus, an economist at UBS, says that much of the economic data will be distorted by the effect of the shutdown, making it harder to discern underlying trends.

"We're in the dark," says Robert DiClemente, chief U.S. economist at Citigroup. "It's going to be a while until we have good answers to all these questions." □

At 11th Hour, Republicans Blink In Standoff

Jonathan Weisman

Jennifer Steinhauer

© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON — Congressional Republican leaders conceded defeat Wednesday in their budget fight with President Barack Obama over the new health care law, agreeing to support a reopening of the government and a lifting of the nation's borrowing authority in exchange for future budget negotiations.

Speaker John A. Boehner, leader of conservative House Republicans whose push to strip money for the health law led to the shuttering of much of the government on Oct. 1, said the House would not block

of a default. Boehner had earlier told colleagues privately that he would not allow the nation to default. The Senate voted on the bill Wednesday evening, with final passage coming early Thursday morning.

Under the agreement, the government would be funded through Jan. 15, and the debt ceiling would be raised until Feb. 7. The Senate will take up a separate motion to instruct House and Senate negotiators to reach accord by Dec. 13 on a long-term blueprint for tax and spending policies over the next decade.

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, stressed that under

Senate who shut down the government in hopes of gutting Obama's signature domestic achievement, the Affordable Care Act.

Instead of using the twin deadlines of an end to government funding and borrowing authority to address the drivers of the federal deficit, conservatives focused on a law they could never undo as long as Obama is president, several senators said.

"We took some bread crumbs and left an entire meal on the table," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. "This has been a really bad two weeks for the Republican Party."

Jay Carney, the White House press secretary, said



White House Press Secretary Jay Carney smiles as he arrives for the daily press briefing at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013, after lawmakers reached a bipartisan deal to avoid default and reopen the government.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

a bipartisan agreement reached in the Senate that yielded virtually no concessions to the Republicans.

"We fought the good fight," Boehner said in an interview with the radio station WLW-AM in Cincinnati. "We just didn't win."

In a statement issued as the Senate and the House prepared to vote on the proposal, Boehner said: "The fight will continue. But blocking the bipartisan agreement reached today by members of the Senate will not be a tactic for us."

The decision came about 24 hours before the Treasury was due to exhaust its borrowing authority, putting the nation on the brink

the deal, which he negotiated with Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the majority leader, budget cuts extracted in the 2011 fiscal showdown were not reversed, as some Democrats had wanted, a slim reed that not even he claimed as a significant victory.

The deal, McConnell said, "is far less than many of us hoped for, quite frankly, but far better than what some had sought."

"It's time for Republicans to unite behind other crucial goals," he added.

Chastened Senate Republicans said they hoped the outcome would be a learning experience for lawmakers in the House and

Obama supported the compromise reached by the Senate leaders, and he urged lawmakers in both chambers to pass it quickly. Carney said the agreement "achieves what's necessary" to reopen the federal government after 16 days, and removes "the threat of economic brinkmanship" that raised the possibility of a government default.

"We leave parliamentary procedures to the Congress," he said. "But we obviously hope that each house will be able to act swiftly. We are already on Day 16 of a wholly unnecessary shutdown of government." □

Washington State approves rules for marijuana industry

GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Washington became the second U.S. state to adopt rules for the recreational sale of marijuana Wednesday, setting what advocates hope will become a template for the drug's legalization around the world.

"We feel very proud of what we're doing," said Sharon Foster, chairwoman of the Washington Liquor Control Board, as she and her two colleagues approved the rules. "We are making history." Washington and Colorado last year legalized the possession of up to an ounce

(28.35 grams) of pot by adults over 21, with voters deciding to set up systems of state-licensed growers, processors and sellers. The measures put state officials in the difficult position of crafting rules for a fledgling industry barred by federal law for more than seven decades.



Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee is joined by state Attorney General Bob Ferguson as he talks to the media in Olympia, Wash. about the federal government's announcement that it will not sue to stop Washington and Colorado from taxing and regulating recreational marijuana for adults. Washington became the second U.S. state to adopt rules for the recreational sale of marijuana Wednesday, setting what advocates hope will become a template for the drug's legalization around the world. (AP Photo/Rachel La Corte)

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The liquor board devised Washington's rules after nearly a year of research, debate and planning, including public hearings that drew hundreds of people around the state. They cover everything from the security at and size of licensed marijuana gardens, to how many pot stores can open in cities across the state. Sales are expected to begin by the middle of next year, with supporters hoping taxed pot might bring the state tens or hundreds of millions of dollars, with much of the revenue directed to public health and drug-abuse prevention. "What the Liquor Control Board has done is build a template for the responsible regulation of marijuana," said Alison Holcomb, the Seattle lawyer who drafted Washington's marijuana initiative. "This is a template that is going to be reviewed by other states, and already is being reviewed by other countries," including Mexico, Uruguay and Poland. Colorado approved its pot industry rules last month,

and sales are expected to start in some cities there at the beginning of 2014. The two states' rules are largely similar, although Colorado will allow stores to sell recreational and medical marijuana. Both states will require such measures as seed-to-store tracking, background checks for license applicants, and child-resistant packaging. Washington liquor board members said they tried to strike a balance between making marijuana accessible enough that legal pot would undermine the black market, but not so accessible that it would threaten public health or safety. The board hopes the sale of legal pot will capture about one-quarter of the total pot market in the state, for starters. Under the rules, the board will issue licenses for up to 334 marijuana stores across the state, with 21 of them in Seattle — a figure some have questioned as too low, considering the city estimates about 200 medical marijuana dispensaries are operating there. □

Justices weigh freezing assets against hiring lawyers

ADAM LIPTAK

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WASHINGTON - Kerri and Brian Kaley, a New York couple, were unable to hire a lawyer to defend themselves against serious criminal charges because the government had frozen their assets. That seemed to trouble several justices at a Supreme Court argument Wednesday. But it was not clear that a majority of the justices could agree on a way to address the couple's situation without cutting back on earlier decisions or intruding into what a government lawyer insisted was the job of the grand jury. The Kaleys were accused of participating in a scheme to obtain and sell prescription medical devices. They said they were likely to win at trial because no one had been harmed by their conduct, a point that two justices seemed to find plausible.

The couple's lawyer, Howard Srebnick, said the case posed a fundamental issue. "I ask that this court not rule that the government can beggar a defendant into

submission," Srebnick said. "I ask this court not to rule that the government can impoverish someone without giving them a chance to be heard through their counsel of choice." But the relief the Kaleys actually sought was substantially narrower. They did not challenge the general framework established by a pair of 1989 Supreme Court decisions, which ruled that freezing assets before a criminal trial was permissible, even if it frustrated the defendant's ability to hire a lawyer, so long as there was probable cause that a crime had been committed and the assets were linked to the offenses described in the indictment. All the Kaleys were seeking was a hearing at which they could try to show that they were entitled to use their money to defend themselves because the charges against them were flawed. Justice Antonin Scalia said he was uncomfortable with the modest step of allowing a hearing but might be open to a bolder one. "To save your



Anti-abortion supporter Paige Coffield of Washington, DC., second from left, stands outside the Supreme Court in Washington, DC.

(AP Photo/ Evan Vucci)

client, I would prefer a rule that says you cannot, even with a grand jury indictment, prevent the defendant from using funds that are in his possession to hire counsel," he said. "Don't

need a hearing." Later in the argument, he proposed another solution. "I don't like casting into doubt the judgment of the grand jury," he said, "but why couldn't we say that

when you're taking away funds that are needed for hiring a lawyer for your defense, you need something more than probable cause? Couldn't we make that up?" □

Bombing suspect's sister in court in counterfeiting case

BOSTON (AP) — The sister of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev appeared briefly in a Boston courtroom Wednesday on a charge related to a counterfeiting investigation. Aliana Tsarnaeva, 23, was in court to ask a judge to remove a warrant issued after she failed to appear on a charge of misleading police. Prosecutors say Tsarnaeva picked up a person who passed a counterfeit bill at a restaurant at the South Bay Mall in Boston in 2010, but was uncooperative when questioned. Jake Wark, a spokesman for District Attorney Dan Conley, said Tsarnaeva is not accused of passing the bill, but evidence suggests she knew members of the group that did and "lied about certain salient facts during the investigation."

Tsarnaeva formerly lived in

Cambridge but now lives in New Jersey.

The default warrant was issued after she failed to appear in court in February 2011. She had been arraigned on the charge a month earlier.

Her lawyer, George Gormley, said in court that she has a 1-year-old child and is pregnant, so is unlikely to flee. "I think it is her view that she provided the information she had to authorities, and she had no connection whatsoever with the passage of this allegedly counterfeit \$100 bill," Gormley said after the hearing in a telephone interview. A judge agreed to remove the default warrant and released Tsarnaeva on \$1,500 personal recognizance. She is not required to post the \$1,500, but must forfeit that amount if she fails to appear in court. □



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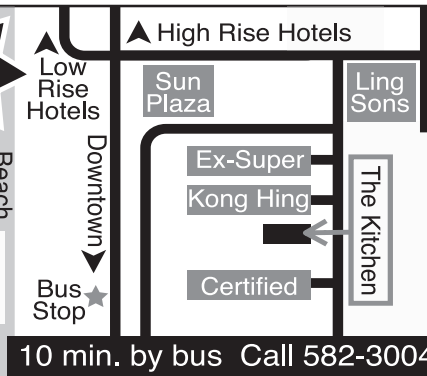


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Hillary Clinton honored for her work on HIV/AIDS

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Elton John honored Hillary Rodham Clinton for her work to help those affected by HIV and AIDS at an annual event for his foundation. Clinton was excited as she accepted the first founders award from the Elton John AIDS Foundation on Tuesday night in New York. The

she said. "Humans may discriminate, but viruses don't." Billy Joel, Alec Baldwin, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Lisa Marie Presley and Courtney Love also attended John's "An Enduring Vision: A Benefit for the Elton John AIDS Foundation" event, which raised \$3.45 million. Recent Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Heart performed

finding ways to assist those affected by AIDS. The event raised \$1 million through an anonymous donor and more funds through an auction, which included a lunch with Anderson Cooper for \$12,000 and a one-hour tennis lesson with Novak Djokovic for \$60,000. Two different signed photos of John taken by Terry O'Neill went for

"We are a week away from our 20th anniversary," he said to gushes from the crowd.

John added that he was touched by Clinton's speech in Geneva, when she declared that "gay rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights." John told The Associated Press before the event that he hopes Clin-

Facebook has new privacy plan for teenagers

VINDU GOEL

© 2013 New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO - Teenagers using Facebook will now be able to post items that can be seen by the public, making it easier for the social network to turn a teenager's post into an ad that can be shown widely.

With the change to its rules on teenagers' use of Facebook, the company reversed its longstanding policy that users between 13 and 17 years old could not share comments and photos more broadly than to friends of friends.

Facebook said it had made the change, announced Wednesday, to let socially active teenagers like musicians and humanitarian activists, people the service has often called its "savviest users," reach a wider audience the way they can on blogs and rival services like Twitter. But the move comes as Facebook tries to encourage its 1.2 billion users to share more information publicly. The company is locked in a battle with Twitter to convince advertisers that it is a better site for reaching consumers interested in events like sports, television shows and the news.

The Facebook move also comes as the Federal Trade Commission conducts an inquiry into other proposed changes to the company's privacy policies. Those policies would give Facebook automatic permission to take a user's post, including a post made by a teenager, and turn it into an advertisement broadcast to anyone who could have seen the original post.

Privacy advocates have complained to the FTC that, with those proposals, Facebook was violating a 2011 order that required the company to obtain explicit permission from its customers before using their data in advertising.



Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks as Elton John (R) and his partner David Furnish (L) look on, after receiving her Founders award during the Elton John AIDS Foundation's 12th Annual "An Enduring Vision" benefit gala at Cipriani Wall Street on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013 in New York. (Associated Press)

former secretary of state told the crowd at Cipriani's restaurant that "we still have so far to go" when it comes to helping those affected by HIV and AIDS. "There are so many challenges in front of us," Clinton said. The former U.S. senator added that she wants to see an "AIDS-free generation" and that accomplishing that must be "our North Star."

"I thank you, but I know there's more for us to do,"

a dozen songs, including the hits "What About Love" and "Alone." "One of my favorite bands of all time!" John yelled before Heart hit the stage. John was passionate throughout the night, urging attendees that there should be AIDS "treatment for everyone, treatment for all."

"We must never give up on anyone," he said, adding that those who want to help have to be "stubborn" when it comes to

\$26,000 and \$27,000.

Matt Lauer hosted the gala, filling in for Cooper, who was on assignment in Washington, D.C. He provided laughs at the start of the event but received help from John's partner, David Furnish, who also worked to facilitate the program.

John's foundation is celebrating its 20th year. Before presenting Clinton with her award, John paid tribute to Furnish.

ton runs for president in 2016. "She's a great human rights campaigner for people of color, for people of sexual orientation," he said. "She's made our fight easier by being such a staunch supporter of AIDS and for people's human rights."

Clinton also headlined a New York fundraiser Tuesday night for Terry McAuliffe, a longtime family friend who is running for Virginia governor.

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US Financial Front:

America's top earners recover losses, and then some

ANNIE LOWREY

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For most Americans, the economy over the last 10 years has felt like a slog interrupted by a punch: the recession came amid years of stagnation. But for America's top earners, the experience has been more like whiplash: a boom followed by a bust followed

ings of those in the top 0.01 percent: They plummeted from \$30.67 million in 2007 to \$18.24 million in 2009, before soaring to \$27 million last year, according to Emmanuel Saez of the University of California, Berkeley, a researcher of U.S. inequality and earnings. For the median-income household, income has slid from \$55,627

Martha's Vineyard, Mass., in bookings for private jets and in the return of nine-figure philanthropy. Chains like Burberry and Prada are expanding in the U.S. again. Sales of million-dollar homes shot up 37 percent from the first half of 2012 to the first half of 2013. And the growth in luxury-car sales is about twice as

Socially minded philanthropy has also become more prevalent since the recession, analysts said, as charitable giving, dominated by wealthier families in good times and bad, rises to close to its 2007 highs.

"These are 60-year-old men," said David Friedman, the president of Wealth-X, a firm that researches ultra-

Still, economists said that people holding considerable capital - de facto, the already rich - have done well during the recovery. Moreover, the 1 percent tends to be sticky, and perhaps even more so in bad times than in good times, Saez said. One study by the Treasury economists Gerald Auten, Geoffrey Gee and Nicholas Turner found that a quarter to a third of 1 percenters in a given year stayed in the 1 percent for all of the following five. Thus, the profile of wealth in the U.S., before the recession and after, has remained much the same.

Three big interconnected economic phenomena have driven the boomerang among the country's top earners, economists said: stocks, houses and loans. The rich took huge losses when the markets plummeted in 2008 and 2009. But those who held on or bought in after then have been richly rewarded, as every dollar invested in the Dow Jones in 2009 is worth about \$1.40 now, after correcting for inflation.

The gains in the markets have bolstered the earnings and the net worth of the half of Americans who own stocks, including through vehicles like mutual funds. But the wealthy have benefited disproportionately. According to Edward Wolff, a New York University economist, the richest 10 percent of households own more than 80 percent of stocks, as measured by value, held directly or through vehicles like mutual funds. And on top of earnings from cashing out, shareholders have also benefited from surging dividends. □



Private jets line up at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey. With most of America's top-earning families having already recovered their losses from the recession, the luxury sector is enjoying a bonanza in sales of jets, vacation homes and high-end cars.

(Joshua Bright/The New York Times)

by a boom.

Call it the 1 percent boomerang. The country's top earners lost huge sums during the recession, as housing values plummeted and the stock market crashed. But the recovery has restored those fortunes - and then some, for some people - and created tremendous new ones.

The trend starts with the merely quite well-off, households earning more than about \$150,000 a year. And the sums become more exaggerated higher up the income scale.

Take the average earn-

to \$53,285 to \$51,017 at the same intervals. The number of U.S. billionaires has whipsawed too, from 469 in 2008, to 359 during the crisis, and back up to 442 this year.

"If you didn't lose any money during the recession, it's because you did not have any money to begin with," said Milton Pedraza of the Luxury Institute, a boutique consultancy. "It's been a real bonanza since the end of 2009."

That bonanza is evident in luxury sales, in the market for homes in places like Kiawah Island, S.C., and

fast as it is for the more pedestrian Fords, Mazdas and Jeeps.

The sums sloshing around are in some cases as big as before the recession, analysts said, but the conspicuous consumption has died down. "People are not buying the red sports car or the orange sports car," Pedraza said. "You'll get a blue one instead." He also noted that "as the wealthy get older, they're less interested in things and more interested in experiences," shifting spending into vacations and dining and away from yachts and jets.

high-net-worth individuals. "They realize they're not immortal. And when they start to sense that mortality, they're going to be fueling luxury consumption and fueling philanthropy in a way the market's never seen." Of course, the 1 percent or top 0.1 percent is not a static figure. Every year, millions of individuals and households move up or down the income scale depending on their earnings, investments and age. Fortunes wax and wane as new tech gurus graduate from college and top lawyers head into retirement.

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Merkel's options narrow as greens walk from talks

MELISSA EDDY

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BERLIN - Chancellor Angela Merkel's options for building a new German government narrowed Wednesday after one of two potential coalition partners withdrew from talks, setting the stage for a possible grand coalition of her conservatives and the center-left Social Democrats.

The decision by the Greens, one of the potential coalition partners, not to pursue further negotiations with Merkel's party, the center-right Christian Democratic Union, and its Bavaria-only sister party, the Christian Social Union, does not mean that negotiations with the other potential partner, the Social Democrats, will be any swifter or easier. But it increases the pressure on the conservative bloc to compromise with the Social Democrats, who are demanding a high price for participation in a government.

Conservative leaders said the Greens withdrew from coalition talks early Wednesday after concluding that differences over crucial issues, including a minimum wage, tax increases and changes to the public health insurance system, were too large to overcome.

"We had to accept after these talks the Greens' position that they are unable to recommend we enter into formal coalition negotiations," Hermann Gröhe, general secretary of the Christian Democrats, told reporters. □

Egypt: Relations with United States in 'turmoil'

BARBARA SURK
 Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's foreign minister said Wednesday that relations between his country and the United States are in "turmoil" following Washington's decision to suspend delivery of tanks, helicopters and fighter jets to Egypt.

The suspension, announced last week, came in response to the unrest in the wake of the July 3 military coup that ousted Mohammed Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected president, and that led to the deaths of hundreds in police crackdowns.

In an interview with state-owned Al-Ahram newspaper, Egypt's Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy said that there is "unrest in relations" between the two countries, warning that the strain could affect the whole Middle East region. The interview was published Wednesday.

However, Fahmy said he was "not worried about this turmoil in relations," be-

cause it's also a chance for the two to "better evaluate their relationship in the future." The Obama administration's decision to cut off military aid was meant as a warning that it no longer can be "business as usual" with Cairo, as President Barack Obama put it last

week.

In announcing the decision, the State Department did not say how much of the \$1.5 billion in annual military and economic aid to Egypt was affected. It held up the delivery of Apache helicopters, F-16 fighter jets, M1A1 Abrams

tank kits, which are put together in Egyptian factories, and Harpoon anti-ship missiles.

But the U.S. decision is more of a symbolic slap than a punishing wound to Egypt's new military-backed government for its slog toward a return to democratic rule.



Interim President Adly Mansour, center, interim Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi, fourth from left, and Defense Minister Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, second from right, pray in Cairo, Egypt.

(AP Photo)

Russian opposition leader is spared jail

ANDREW E. KRAMER

© 2013 New York Times

KIROV, Russia - An appellate judge on Wednesday suspended a five-year sentence handed down over the summer to Alexei A. Navalny, the anti-corruption crusader and blogger whose role as Russia's leading opposition politician was highlighted by an unexpectedly strong showing in Moscow's mayoral election last month.

The ruling meant that Navalny, who arrived at the

Kirov Regional Court lugging a backpack of clothes to take with him to prison, will remain free, although he is prohibited from traveling outside his home city, Moscow, and possibly from taking part in electoral politics.

The decision, by Judge Albert A. Prytkov, left the sense that Navalny, 37, had won his freedom by defying expectations with his strong showing in the election, elevating his status and cementing his position as the

main political opponent of President Vladimir Putin.

Navalny told reporters that although the ruling was a victory, it was "nothing to celebrate" because it could interfere in his future political career. Under a 2012 law that was partially struck down by Russia's constitutional court last week, making its status unclear, convicted felons are prohibited from running for public office.

Also, under terms similar to probation, any minor

violation could prompt a judge to order Navalny to serve the whole term. He will need to check in with a parole officer every two weeks.

The trial judge, Sergei Blinov, sentenced Navalny on embezzlement charges in July in a trial widely denounced as rigged.

But another judge released him a day later pending the appeal, acting on a request by the same prosecutor who had just won the conviction. □

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Iran talks called substantive, more talks November 7-8

MICHAEL R. GORDON
© 2013 New York Times

GENEVA - Iran and a group of six world powers said Wednesday that they had engaged in "substantive" and "forward-looking" discussions on the disputed Iranian nuclear program and that they would reconvene in early November. The account of the two days of talks in Geneva came in a rare joint statement from Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, and Catherine Ashton, the foreign policy chief for the European Union, who is the lead negotiator with Iran. Representatives from the two sides are to meet again in Geneva for talks on Nov. 7 and 8. Nuclear and sanctions experts from the two sides are to meet before then to discuss technical issues. The meeting was the first between Iran and the six powers since the new Iranian president, Hassan Rouhani, took office in August and vowed to resolve longstanding concerns about the Iranian nuclear program, which Iran says is peaceful but many nations suspect is a guise for developing the ability to make weapons.

In a news conference, Zarif said that the meeting had been "fruitful" and would "hopefully be the beginning of a new phase in our relationship." He said that he hoped the West would take a "balanced" ap-

proach, an apparent allusion to Iranian demands for an easing of the tough economic sanctions that have hurt Iran.

Neither Western nor Iranian officials provided any concrete examples of measures that might have been agreed upon. Nor did Iran say it had taken any steps to pause its program to enrich uranium or expand its nuclear infrastructure. Zarif stated that Iran planned to continue with its nuclear enrichment program while trying assuage Western concerns. But he declined to say whether or when Iran might accept extensive monitoring provided for by a protocol that allows inspections to be carried out when prohibited activity is suspected.

Earlier, before the discussions had officially adjourned, Zarif had signaled that both sides would meet again soon.

"The talks will continue in a few weeks in Geneva and during this period the members of the P5+1 will have a chance to acquire the necessary readiness regarding the details of Iran's plans and the steps that they must take," the foreign minister wrote on his Facebook page.

Zarif was referring to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States - plus Germany, the

six big powers who have engaged in on-again, off-again talks with Iran for years.

There was no indication of any breakthrough, and the U.S. has repeatedly said that it was important for

Iran to take steps to pause or even reverse its nuclear program while negotiations continue. □



Switzerland's Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter, left, speaks with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Geneva, Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013. Iran will meet again with six world powers in early November to discuss ways to ease fears that it may want atomic arms, Iranian officials said Wednesday, reflecting signs of progress at the current nuclear talks.

(AP Photo/Martial Trezzini, Pool)

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Dutch diplomat beaten in Moscow; tensions grow

LYNN BERRY
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A Dutch diplomat was beaten up by two men who barged into his apartment in central Moscow, an attack that followed the arrest of a Russian diplomat in the Netherlands and threatened to further sour relations between the two countries. Russia was quick to express its regrets on Wednesday, but the Dutch government said it expected

Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans said in a post on his Facebook page that the diplomat was slightly injured in the assault on Tuesday night. Timmermans said he had summoned the Russian ambassador for an explanation.

"Our people have to be able to work safely, and I want guarantees that the Russian authorities will accept their responsibilities on that point," the minister

to Russia, but he also defended the actions of the police who had arrested Borodin. Police have declined to comment on the incident. Dutch state broadcaster NOS reported that police had traced a car involved in an accident that day to Borodin's home, and neighbors told police they were worried for the safety of the children inside.

The incidents involving the Russian and Dutch dip-

gender.

The Dutch have been outspoken in their criticism of Russia's anti-gay policies. In April, the Amsterdam mayor expressed his opposition by declining to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin during his visit to the Netherlands. And in August, Dutch gay groups held a protest ahead of a major concert by Russian state musicians and dancers. It was impossible to independently verify the authenticity of the photo.

Citing its sources in law enforcement, Lifeneers described how the attack occurred: The diplomat returned home and found the elevator not working, so he walked up the stairs to his fourth-floor apartment, where he was met by two men dressed as workmen who were fiddling around in the electrical box in the stairwell. The men told him the power was out on the entire floor and asked if they could come into his apartment to check the electricity. As soon as the diplomat opened the door they pushed him to the floor, the report said.

The veracity of this report was impossible to determine, but no other account of the attack appeared on Wednesday.

The Netherlands and Russia chose 2013 as a year to celebrate historical ties, but it has been filled with tension instead.

The new Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, is due to visit Russia and meet with Putin in November, but some in the Netherlands suggest he should reconsider. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte told reporters at Parliament that he wants to establish the facts of the attack in Moscow as soon as possible and would not speculate about the king's visit to Russia. □

49 believed dead in plane crash in Laos

THANYARAT DOKSONE
Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — A Lao Airlines flight crashed Wednesday in the Southeast Asian nation, apparently killing all 49 people aboard, including passengers from 11 countries, the Lao government said.

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport, which operates the airline as a state enterprise, said 44 passengers and five crew members were aboard flight QV301 from the Lao capital, Vientiane, to Pakse in the country's south. Earlier reports had said there were 39 passengers on board.

"Upon preparing to land at Pakse Airport the aircraft ran into extreme bad weather conditions and was reportedly crashed into the Mekong River," the ministry said in a statement. It said there was no word of survivors. The airline flies an ATR 72-600 twin-engine turboprop plane on the 467-kilometer (290-mile) route. The aircraft is configured with 68-74 seats, said maker ATR. Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Sek Wannamethee said his country's embassy in Vientiane was informed that the plane crashed 7-8 kilometers (4-5 miles) from the airport at Pakse. A passenger manifest faxed by the airline listed 44 people: 17 Lao, seven French, five Australians, five Thais, three Koreans, two Vietnamese and one person each from Canada, China, Malaysia, Taiwan and the United States. Korean, French and Thai officials confirmed the totals for their nationalities. The Lao government said the airline "is taking all necessary steps to coordinate and dispatch all rescue units to the accident site in the hope of finding survivors." □



A ballet dancer performs during a protest criticizing the Russian government's homosexuality policies at Museum Square in Amsterdam. A Dutch diplomat was beaten up by two men who barged into his apartment in central Moscow, an attack that followed the arrest of a Russian diplomat in the Netherlands and threatened to further sour relations between the two countries. (AP Photo/Margriet Faber)

ed a full explanation. The Investigative Committee said Wednesday that it was working to identify and find the men who had knocked the diplomat to the floor and tied him up with tape. A news website with close ties to Russian law enforcement agencies reported that the attackers had posed as electricians. While it was unclear who had assaulted the diplomat and why, several Western ambassadors in recent years have been subject to harassment that was seen as reflecting Kremlin anger at actions taken by them or the countries they represented.

wrote. He did not name the diplomat.

The Russian Foreign Ministry identified the Dutch diplomat as Onno Elderenbosch, the deputy chief of mission at the Moscow embassy.

"In Moscow we express our regrets in connection with the deplorable incident," Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said in a statement. He said Russian investigators would do everything possible to find those responsible.

The arrest of Russian diplomat Dmitry Borodin in The Hague on Oct. 5 caused outrage in Moscow. Timmerman later apologized

lomats, both the No. 2 in their respective embassies, come at a time of growing tensions between the two countries over Russia's seizure of a Dutch-flagged Greenpeace ship and Russia's anti-gay laws.

Russia's state television showed photos obtained by the news website Lifeneers, known for having good sources in Russian law enforcement, that it said were taken inside the Dutch diplomat's apartment, including one showing a heart written in lipstick on a mirror with the Russian letters LGBT beneath it. LGBT stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-



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Group:

Haitian garment workers shortchanged on pay

RANDAL C. ARCHIBOLD
STEVEN GREENHOUSE
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MEXICO CITY - Garment factories in Haiti, the backbone of an effort to revive the country's earthquake-shattered economy, have seriously shortchanged workers of their wages to keep costs of their T-shirts and other export goods low, according to a report to be issued Wednesday by a labor rights group.

The report, prepared by the Worker Rights Consortium, focused on 5 of Haiti's 24 garment factories and found that "the majority of Haitian garment workers are being denied nearly a third of the wages they are legally due as a result of the factories' theft of their income."

The group said that the factories deprive workers of higher wages they are entitled to under law by setting difficult-to-meet production quotas and neglecting to pay overtime.

It said that offenders included the Caracol Industrial Park in northern Haiti, which the United States helped build and has cited as a centerpiece of reconstruction efforts, and factories that make products for prominent retailers like Gap, Target and Wal-Mart. Scott Nova, the consortium's executive director, said in an interview: "What goes on here is not

some occasional violations where most companies are in compliance and a few are not. You have across-the-board systematic, willful noncompliance with straightforward labor law by a large margin in a way

violations in all 24 factories. The Better Work report said just 16 percent of apparel workers who are paid by the number of pieces they produce earned 300 Haitian gourdes for an eight-hour day, or about \$6.90,

were also not adequately compensated for the extra time they worked to meet them. Many workers were paid 200 gourdes, or about \$4.60, the minimum wage for nonpiece work. The time-and-a-half premium

300 Haitian gourdes, but he declined to release details or to comment on the findings of the Worker Rights Consortium.

He said Better Work and a Haitian government panel had begun work to clarify the wage law and its obligations.

The consortium's report is bound to add to the debate in Haiti and abroad over the garment factories, which the government and industry supporters contend provide desperately needed steady jobs in a country with few of them and will, they say, eventually lift the economy. Labor rights groups argue the factories exploit workers and pay unfair wages that are too meager for Haitians to support themselves, but that allow major retailers to keep costs of their products low. Henri-Claude Müller-Poitevien, the Haiti prime minister's adviser on investment, said Haiti was working on training workers to improve their productivity. The industry is still trying to rebound after embargoes in its politically unstable years of the 1980s and '90s, and the January 2010 quake, took a toll.

He disagreed that factories should adjust their quotas, because, he said, that might send business to Cambodia and other low-wage countries Haiti competes with. □



Workers in a garment shop in Wanament, Haiti. Garment factories in Haiti, the backbone of an effort to revive the country's earthquake-shattered economy, have seriously shortchanged workers of their wages to keep costs of their export goods low, according to a Worker Rights Consortium report issued Oct. 16, 2013.

(Richard Perry/The New York Times)

that's very destructive to workers."

The group's report follows one in April by Better Work, an independent labor compliance group backed by the International Labor Organization and an arm of the World Bank, that found widespread wage

a minimum benchmark the factories must offer such workers.

The Worker Rights Consortium said that in all five factories it investigated, workers needed more than the normal 48-hour week to produce enough to be paid that much, and they

for overtime, if paid at all, was often based on 200 gourdes rather than 300.

Better Work is also expected to release its latest report Wednesday. Richard Lavallée, the group's program manager, said Tuesday that there has been an increase in workers earning

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North Korea plans to expand economic zones

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — In a bid to bolster its laggard economy, North Korea plans to set up more special economic zones and has created a group to assist potential foreign investors, state media and the organizers of a rare international conference in Pyongyang said Wednesday. Ri Chol Sok, vice president of the newly formed Korea Economic Development Association, which is hosting the two-day conference, said the zones "are already starting to be organized all over the country." The meeting began Wednesday with academics and experts from 13 countries — including the US, Canada, India, China, Malaysia and Vietnam — and 60 North Korean participants.

North Korea is still regarded as too risky by many businesses but has had its eye on expanding its use of economic zones since at least June, when it announced foreign investors would be given preferential treatment for land use, labor and taxes.

North Korea, which is one of the world's poorest countries, officially follows a rigid planned economy, but authorities have tolerated unofficial capitalist activities for years. It has experimented with special economic zones as a

means of enticing foreign investment since the 1990s. The longest-running example is the Rason Special Economic Zone, in the far northeast of the country. It was set up in the early 1990s, but made little prog-

North Korea also has a joint industrial zone with South Korea, at Kaesong, but that was shut for months this year after North Korea pulled its workers out during a period of heightened tension between Pyong-

information session aimed at introducing the Kaesong complex to foreign investors.

Many analysts say North Korea takes Kaesong's resumption and the new zones seriously because it



Academics and experts attend an international meeting on special economic zones at Yanggakdo Hotel in Pyongyang, North Korea, Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013. In a bid to bolster its laggard economy, North Korea plans to set up new special economic zones and has created a group to assist potential foreign investors, state media and the organizers of the rare international conference said Wednesday.
(AP Photo/Jon Chol Jin)

ress until recently after being reinvented as a joint North Korea-China project. Another North Korea-China joint economic development project on the border between the two countries at Hwanggumpyong is still at a much earlier stage of development.

yang and Seoul.

The two Koreas have agreed to reopen Kaesong, but it has not returned to full operations and tensions remain. North Korea abruptly called off reunions for war-separated families last month and South Korea postponed an

believes they could help draw outside investment and revive its struggling economy, one of leader Kim Jong Un's top stated goals.

Doubts remain over whether foreign investors will be willing to take the risk of operating in the North. □

CARIBBEAN NEWS BRIEFS

French official to review island crime concerns

FORT-DE-FRANCE, Martinique (AP) — France's interior minister is scheduled to visit several French Caribbean islands that have reported an increase in violent crime despite having received additional resources last year. Manuel Valls is scheduled to meet late Wednesday with officials in Martinique to review the effects of a French government program created in July 2012 to target high-crime areas. A 2012 state report noted that Martinique experienced a rise in drug trafficking and that neighboring Guadeloupe saw armed robberies double last year. Despite an increase in police officers for both islands, authorities saw a jump in killings this year, with Guadeloupe reporting a record 38 slayings on the island of roughly 405,000 people. Police union leaders have said they need dozens of additional officers. □

Convicted drug dealer's ex-wife is out of prison

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Prison authorities in the Dominican Republic have released the former wife of a convicted drug dealer once known as the Pablo Escobar of the Caribbean.

A judge placed 36-year-old Leavy Nin Batista on conditional release Wednesday after she served more than two years of a five-year sentence. Batista acknowledged her guilt in a 2011 plea deal with prosecutors after being charged with money laundering. □

Australian, 3 Tibetans die on Mount Everest

BEIJING (AP) — An Australian tourist and three Tibetans have died in an avalanche on Mount Everest, state media reported Wednesday. A local tourist agency organized a trip for four tourists to an off-limits area on Sunday evening, according to the Xinhua News Agency. The group of 10, which included three

herders who acted as porters, two cooks and a tour guide, encountered an avalanche, and one Australian and the three local herders died, it reported.

The Australian Embassy confirmed the death of a 60-year-old man from southern Australia in Tibet. It said consular officials in Beijing were attempting to

contact the man's family to offer assistance.

The Xinhua report said the local government had organized a rescue effort after receiving a distress report, and that following the rescue, the Australian had died as a result of altitude sickness, poor health and age, citing officials in Shigatse, a city in western

Tibet. State broadcaster CCTV said 154 people who had been stranded by the avalanche were rescued Tuesday, 86 at the Everest base camp on the mountain's Chinese side.

Calls to local authorities and the police were either unanswered or officials declined to provide information. □



Travelworld Belgium and KLM Travel Agents love Aruba!

ORANJESTAD - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority hosted a familiarization trip for the Travelworld Bel-

gium/KLM travel agents. The group of agents were very impressed with the product Aruba for every-



thing the Island has to offer to its visitors. They visited several of our luxurious Resorts for site inspections, took an Island tour courtesy of El Tours and a very nice sailing and snorkeling trip with the Jolly Pirates. All the Resorts were very enthusiastic about this

group of agents for they represent a very good market in Europe of potential Aruba visitors, reason enough to present the best of what they have to offer to the European tourist. The travel agents were accompanied by Mr. Ernest Giel from the Aruba Tour-

ism Authority, who prepared a very nice program of site inspections and entertainment for the group. A very warm thank you goes to all the Resorts who participated in this famtrip, to El tours for the transfer and the Jolly Pirates for the wonderful snorkeling trip. □

Stellaris Casino is Named in "Top 10 Best Caribbean Casinos"

PALM BEACH - The Stellaris Casino at the Aruba Marriott Resort was named one of "The 10 Best Caribbean Casinos" by the Caribbean Journal. Stellaris Casino was listed number four of the ten casinos mentioned in the Caribbean based on the multitude of terrific casinos in this region. "I would like to thank our casino associates for delivering superior service to our guests" said Ben Fi-

garoa, Director of Casino Operations at the Stellaris Casino. "We will continue to invest in our casino offerings and services to become the number #1 in the Caribbean." Open 24 hours, the Stellaris Casino offers over 500 slot machines and features over 26 gaming tables. For more information on Aruba's largest casino and events can be found on www.stellariscasino.com. □



After Summer Party at Moomba!



PALM BEACH - As you know the party never stops at Moomba. This time the party's on tap for the 20th of October, starting at 4pm. To help the party get started, Amstel Bright will be on special the whole day long! Music will be taken care of by no one less than International DJ Nono Belune. Also the devilishly cool DJ Diablo will tune in to keep everybody dancing. Luckily the summer never stops on Aruba! Therefore, the winner of the Amstel Bright Sea-Doo giveaway will officially get their prize during this party. Feeling like a good party at the beach with good music and the beers as cold as they get, than you should not miss this After Summer party at Moomba Beach! □



Aruba's Consul ad Honorem of Ecuador inaugurates Consulate

PALM BEACH - Well-respected tourism sales and marketing executive Mrs. Magali Guzman de Meza was appointed Consul ad Honorem of Ecuador in November of last year, and in February this year, she met with the Governor F.J. Refunjol for her official introduction.

In August, 2013, she inaugurated the Consulate office, in her residence in Sabana Liber 13Q. Present at the inaugural event, the Ambassador from Ecuador in the Netherlands Mr. Miguel Calahorrano and the Counselor of the Embassy of Ecuador in the Netherlands Mr. Jose Luis Jacome, among many Ecuadorians, presently residing in Aruba.

The brief ceremony began with the National Anthem of Ecuador sang by the attendees, moved on the occasion of their National Flag raised in Aruba.

In his welcome address, the Ambassador reminded his audience that Ecuadorians are recognized world over as hard workers and responsible citizens, urging



those who found a new home here in Aruba to be grateful for the opportunity and respectful of this land that received them with open arms.

The Consulate services are provided by appointment. Contact information: Magali Guzman Meza, Tel: 594 3842. For more information and services provided: www.facebook.com/Consuladecuadorianoenaruba.

Featured in the photos are Governor F.J. Refunjol and Mrs. Magali Guzman de Meza. □

Beauty On The Beach

Kenna and Carolina Armstrong

Kenna and Caroline are with their parents on vacation in Aruba, it is their first visit to the island. They are staying at Hyatt Regency Aruba. What they love the most of Aruba are the beaches.

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Meet The Iguana better known locally as Yuwana

PALM BEACH - Of all the reptiles running through the hot and dry sand looking for shelter in among trees and cacti, the iguana is the most remarkable. It resembles a "prehistorically looking monster" straight out of a movie, a little scary but beautiful creature. Should an iguana sense danger, its initial reaction is to change color, and then it tries to find a place where it can camouflage better



and blend in with its surroundings. Often the Iguana's ideal place is hiding in a tree. Still sensing trouble, it peeks gingerly with one eye to see what threat is causing it to hide. Once the iguana notices that it has been detected, the reptile has no other choice than to fall to the ground and run as fast as possible. Iguanas are surprisingly fast - they raise their bodies off the ground with their legs, and sprint off at an impressive pace, almost seeming to be running on tiptoe. An adult iguana's color normally is a grayish green,

while a young iguana is bright neon green, which can become darker as soon as it feels threatened. But don't you be afraid they are completely harmless and will run away when they see you. The iguana's food of choice is green leaves and certain fruits and they have the ability to find the leaves with a higher nutritional content. The female iguana lays her eggs in a hole that she excavated herself. It's a shame that these precious animals are still being

hunted today. They are mostly relished in soups. A popular notion is that iguana soup gives strength and virility. In 1995 a prohibition to kill iguanas was established, out of fear that the local population of these animals was being wiped out. For example, any restaurant found with iguana in their menu receives a huge fine, and can face being shut down. Check with your local hotel when and where they are having the daily Iguana feeding. □

ing hunted today. They are mostly relished in soups. A popular notion is that iguana soup gives strength and virility. In 1995 a prohibition to kill iguanas was established, out of fear that the local population of these animals was being wiped out. For example, any restaurant found with iguana in their menu receives a huge fine, and can face being shut down. Check with your local hotel when and where they are having the daily Iguana feeding. □



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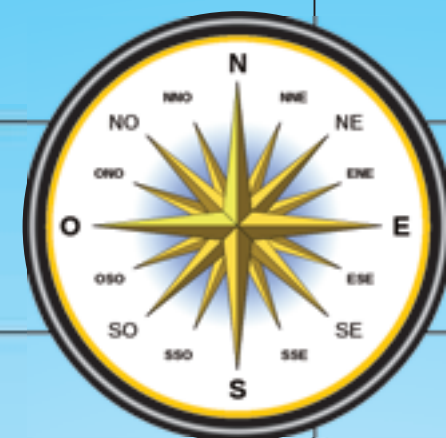
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- Right of way road
- End of right of way road
- Right of way at intersection
- Oncoming traffic has right of way
- Stop. Right of way ahead
- Do not pass
- No Left turn
- No Right turn





Blackhawks notch 2,500th win, beat Hurricanes

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) — Patrick Sharp scored in the shootout and the Chicago Blackhawks claimed the 2,500th victory in club history by beating the Carolina Hurricanes 3-2 Tuesday night.

Sharp and Marian Hossa also scored 2:22 apart in the first period for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who blew a 2-0 lead in the third before winning in the tiebreaker. Corey Crawford finished with 32 saves, then stopped three Carolina shooters in the shootout.

After Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews came up empty, Sharp beat Cam Ward with a nifty forehand in the third round.

Crawford then stuffed Jeff Skinner to end it, making the Blackhawks the last of the Original Six to reach the 2,500-win mark.

Alexander Semin and Ron Hainsey scored during Carolina's third-period rally. Ward stopped 34 shots for Carolina.

AVALANCHE 3, STARS 2

DENVER (AP) — Matt Duchene scored twice and Semyon Varlamov stopped 39 shots, helping Colorado hold off Dallas and improve to 6-0 in Pat-



Colorado Avalanche center Nathan MacKinnon (29) tangles for the puck with Dallas Stars center Cody Eakin (20) in the second period of an NHL hockey game in Denver on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013.

Associated Press

rick Roy's first season on the bench.

Jan Hejda also scored as the Avs moved within a win of tying the franchise's best start. The organization was 7-0 in 1985-86 as the Quebec Nordiques. By winning six straight, Roy ties the NHL record for victories to start a coaching career. He shares the mark with Mario Tremblay, who won his first six games with Montreal in 1995-96, a team Roy played for before being traded to the Avalanche later that season.

Rich Peverley and Cody Eakin had goals for the Stars, who outshot the Avs 41-26 in dropping their second straight game on the road.

SENATORS 4, COYOTES 3, OT GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)

— Cory Conacher scored at 2:48 of overtime, Jason Spezza completed a natural hat trick to erase a two-goal deficit and Ottawa ended a four-game losing streak with its win over Phoenix.

Phoenix took a 2-0 lead on quick goals by Rob Klinkhammer and Radim Vrba in the second period, but the Senators rallied behind Spezza's fifth hat trick.

Continued on Page 21



AP source: Suh fined \$31,500 for hit

LARRY LAGE

AP Sports Writer

ALLEN PARK, Michigan (AP) — A person familiar with the decision tells The Associated Press the NFL has fined Detroit Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh \$31,500

Detroit Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh (90) sacks Cleveland Browns quarterback Brandon Weeden (3) in the third quarter of an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 13, 2013, in Cleveland.

for a hit on Cleveland Browns quarterback Brandon Weeden.

The person spoke Wednesday on condition of anonymity because the fine had not been announced. Earlier in the day, Suh insisted he was unaware the NFL was reviewing his hit on Weeden on Sunday.

Suh wasn't penalized for the play, but it was shown on a video posted on NFL.com as vice president of officiating Dean Blandino said he wanted to look at it more for "potential helmet to the body." Suh was fined \$100,000 for an illegal block on Minnesota center John Sullivan in Week 1. □

Dodgers beat Cardinals 6-4 to extend NLCS

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Adrian Gonzalez homered twice to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 6-4 victory over the Cardinals on Wednesday that trimmed St. Louis' lead to 3-2 in the National League championship series.

Zack Greinke gave a stellar pitching performance while Carl Crawford and A.J. Ellis also hit home runs for the Dodgers, who rediscovered their power stroke just in time to save their season. They held in the ninth, when St. Louis scored twice off closer Kenley Jansen before he struck out pinch-hitter Adron Chambers with two on to end it. The best-of-seven series shifts back to St. Louis for Game 6 on Friday night, when ace Clayton Kershaw is scheduled to start for the Dodgers against rookie Michael Wacha.

When those two squared off in Game 2, the Cardinals won 1-0 on an unearned run. Desperate to avoid elimination, the Dodgers brought in some Hollywood star power for pregame introductions. Will Ferrell announced their lineup and lent a comic spin to each player's name, capping it by introducing Greinke as "today's winning pitcher." Greinke got into a bases-loaded jam in the first inning but escaped with no damage. From there, he pitched seven strong innings and even delivered an RBI single.

The Cardinals also led last year's NLCS 3-1 before losing three straight games to the eventual World Series champion San Francisco Giants.

The Dodgers rallied in this one after Greinke gave up an early 2-0 lead just as he did in Game 1, which Los Angeles lost 3-2 in 13 innings on the road.

After neither team homered in the first three games for the first time in NLCS history, the big bats came out. The Cardinals used a two-run homer by Matt Holliday and a solo shot from pinch-hitter



Los Angeles Dodgers' Adrian Gonzalez hits a home run during the third inning of Game 5 of the National League baseball championship series against the St. Louis Cardinals Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Shane Robinson to win 4-2 on Tuesday night.

This time, Gonzalez went 3 for 4 with two solo homers. His two-out shot in the eighth made it 6-2.

The Cardinals tied it at 2 in the third on Carlos Beltran's

RBI triple and Holliday's run-scoring double.

Los Angeles answered in the bottom half. Mark Ellis singled leading off but was erased when Hanley Ramirez grounded into a double play.

Gonzalez followed with the Dodgers' first homer of the NLCS, slugging the ball an estimated 428 feet into the right-field pavilion for a 3-2 lead.

As he headed toward the dugout, Gonzalez cupped

his hands to his ears and wiggled them in a gesture resembling mouse ears. It was an apparent tweak at Cardinals pitcher Adam Wainwright, who said Gonzalez had done "some Mickey Mouse stuff" in celebrating a double on Monday night.

The Dodgers are trying to become the 12th team to rally from a 3-1 deficit to win a best-of-seven series. Greinke allowed two runs and six hits. He struck out four and walked one.

Jansen gave up RBI singles to Matt Adams and Pete Kozma in the ninth.

A.J. Ellis homered in seventh, sending an 0-2 pitch from Edward Mujica into the left-field pavilion to make it 5-2. Crawford homered with one out in the fifth, extending the Dodgers' lead to 4-2. He walloped a 3-2 pitch from starter Joe Kelly an estimated 447 feet into the right-field pavilion.

Kelly gave up four runs and seven hits in five innings, struck out three and walked none.

Beltran's triple went over the head of Andre Ethier and to the wall in center, scoring Matt Carpenter, who singled. Holliday followed with a double to deep center. □

Jury says Cuban did not commit insider trading

DAVID KOENIG

AP Business Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Mark Cuban won a years-long fight with the U.S. government Wednesday as jurors decided that the billionaire basketball team owner did not commit insider-trading when he sold his stake in an Internet company in 2004. The jury in federal district court in Dallas said that the Securities and Exchange Commission failed to prove the key elements of its case, including the claim that Cuban agreed to keep certain information confidential and not trade on it.

The nine-member jury deliberated only a few hours

before reaching the verdict that ended a three-week trial and an SEC lawsuit filed in 2008.

During an impromptu news conference outside the courthouse, Cuban angrily denounced the SEC and its lead trial attorney, Jan Folen, saying that they lied about the evidence and targeted him because of his fame. He said that defendants of lesser wealth could have been bullied.

"Hopefully people will start paying attention to how the SEC does business," Cuban said.

"I'm the luckiest guy in the world. I'm glad this happened to me. I'm glad I'm able to be the person who

can afford to stand up to them."

Folena, who left the courthouse just minutes before Cuban, said, "We believe we did the best we could in this case, and things turn out the way they turn out." The SEC accused Cuban of using inside information to sell \$7.9 million of stock in Mamma.com Inc. after he learned of a stock offering that would depress the price of shares in the search engine company. The agency wanted Cuban to repay \$750,000 in losses that he avoided, plus pay a penalty. It was a civil lawsuit, so the 55-year-old Dallas Mavericks owner and regular on the ABC reality

show "Shark Tank" didn't face criminal charges.

The company's CEO testified by video that Cuban, the largest shareholder, agreed during an eight-minute phone call that he wouldn't disclose what the CEO told him about the stock offering or sell his shares on the news. He sold them a few hours later, however, before the company announced the stock offering to the public. Cuban disputed the CEO's claims.

"This was a credibility contest and Cuban won," said John Coffee, a law professor at Columbia University. Cuban's lawyers attacked the credibility of the CEO. □

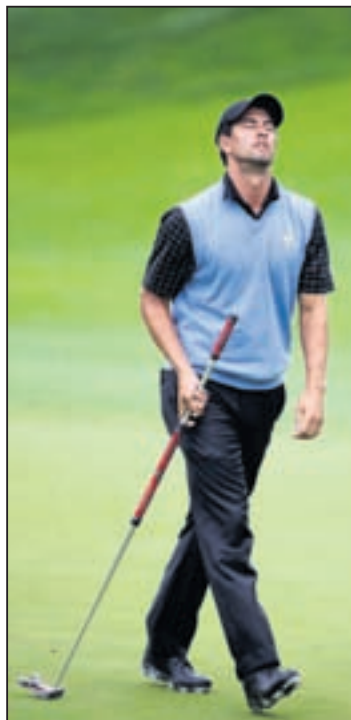
Masters champ Scott wins PGA Grand Slam of Golf

SOUTHAMPTON, Bermuda (AP) — Masters champion Adam Scott broke the course record at Port Royal with a 7-under 64 to win the PGA Grand Slam of Golf by two shots over U.S. Open champion Justin Rose on Wednesday.

Trailing by four shots with 10 holes to play, Scott pulled ahead of his good friend for the first time with a 6-iron that settled inches from the cup on the par-5 17th for a tap-in eagle. Rose pulled his approach and had to settle for par.

"Obviously, I'm thrilled to come out on top," Scott said. "Fun — but a trying couple of days here, really, especially today. Standing on the 11th tee, didn't look like a score like that was going to be possible. But I played very well and managed to slowly claw away at Justin."

Rose, who opened with a 67, had a 69 in the 36-hole



International team player Adam Scott, of Australia, reacts after a putt on the first green during the single matches at the Presidents Cup golf tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club Sunday, Oct. 6, 2013, in Dublin, Ohio. Associated Press

exhibition for the four major champions of the year.

Scott finished at 8-under 134 in his first trip to Bermuda. He won a pink jacket to go along with the green jacket he won at Augusta. A 6-iron was also the club Scott used on the second playoff hole at Augusta National when he defeated Angel Cabrera — but this one came from a new set. Scott replaced his irons for the Presidents Cup two weeks ago.

"So this one's got some good stuff in it, too," he said.

U.S. PGA champion Jason Dufner, who started two shots behind, fell off the pace quickly and was never a serious threat. He

closed with a 70 to finish alone in third, five shots behind. Padraig Harrington, a three-time major winner, shot 71 to finish eight behind. As the defending champion, Harrington was first alternate to replace British Open champion Phil Mickelson, who chose not to play.

Rose had a two-shot lead going into the final day and ran off four birdies to double the lead. Scott stayed in range with three birdies, and then the Australian played mistake-free in tough conditions on the back nine to rally for the win.

Scott made birdie on No. 13, and then holed a 20-foot birdie on the 15th after

Rose's attempt from 30 feet narrowly missed.

"I started with a two-shot lead and somebody had to shoot well to beat me," Rose said.

"When you're in that position you want to close it out. But when somebody finishes it out like that, you have to tip your hat and say you were beaten rather than losing. He was 4-under the last six, so that's a strong finish."

For setting the course record at Port Royal — Lucas Glover had a 65 in 2009 — the premier of Bermuda offered Scott an honorary membership at the course.

"Do I get to keep it if someone beats it next year?" Scott replied. □



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NHL Continued

Continued from Page 18

Mike Ribeiro tied it with just over three minutes left with his first goal of the season, redirecting a shot by Oliver Ekman-Larsson on a power play to send the game to overtime.

Conacher, who took a stick to the face in the second period, ended the game and Ottawa's opening six-game road trip by setting up in front and one-timing Marc Methot's pass from the left circle past a diving Mike Smith.

SHARKS 6, BLUES 2

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Joe Thornton had a goal and three assists, Patrick Marleau had a goal and two assists, and San Jose downed St. Louis in the matchup of unbeaten teams that was halted in the first period when Sharks defenseman Dan Boyle was taken off on a stretcher after being checked from behind by the Blues' Maxim Lapierre. The Sharks said Boyle was alert and responsive on the way to the hospital.

Lapierre was ejected for the check 5:22 into the first, and 79 minutes in penalties followed before the period was over.

The Sharks got a goal and assist from Logan Couture. Joe Pavelski, Tommy Wingels and Scott Hannan also scored, while Antti Niemi stopped 25 shots.

Vladimir Tarasenko broke Niemi's shutout with his fourth goal in as many games for the Blues. Roman Polak also scored for the Blues.

MAPLE LEAFS 4, WILD 1

TORONTO (AP) — Mason Raymond scored two goals, James Reimer made 36 saves and Toronto beat Minnesota, improving to 6-1-0 to continue its best start since 1993, when the Maple Leafs opened with 10 straight wins.

Toronto scored four goals on only 14 shots.

Because of penalties, the Wild spent more than a quarter of the first period on the power play. That meant Reimer faced plenty of shots and was the Leafs' best penalty-killer.

Minnesota goalie Darcy

Kuemper struggled with little action.

The Leafs scored on their first shot, a tic-tac-toe passing play from Cody Franson to Dave Bolland to Tyler Bozak that Kuemper couldn't stop at 4:24 of the first.

Trevor Smith beat the Wild's No. 3 goaltender between his legs at 13:51 of the first period on Toronto's third shot of the game.

Jason Pominville scored a power-play goal for Minnesota with 2:33 left in the first period.

PENGUINS 3, OILERS 2

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Evgeni Malkin's power-play goal 7:20 into the third period put Pittsburgh in front for good and the Penguins stayed hot at home by beating Edmonton.

Pascal Dupuis and Chris Kunitz also scored for Pittsburgh. Sidney Crosby assisted on all three Penguins goals to vault him into the NHL scoring lead. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 20 shots for Pittsburgh to improve to 5-0 on the season. Ales Hemsky and Jordan Eberle scored for Edmonton. Jason Labarbera made 25 saves, but struggled with puck control as the Oilers dropped their fourth straight.

Edmonton twice battled back to tie it but had no answer after Malkin's second goal of the season. Crosby earned the secondary assist on the score and has points in each of Pittsburgh's first six games.

CANUCKS 3, FLYERS 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Ryan Kesler scored the second of his two goals with 2:25 left in the third period to lead Vancouver over Philadelphia, which fell to 1-6 overall and 1-3 under coach Craig Berube.

Chris Higgins also scored for Vancouver and Roberto Luongo made the win stand with 20 saves.

Tye McGinn scored both goals for the Flyers, who haven't scored more than two goals in a game this season.

Higgins and Kesler and each scored in the third period to rally Vancouver. SABRES 4 ISLANDERS 3, SO

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Marcus Foligno scored the tying goal with 2:01 left in regulation, Ryan Miller

stopped John Tavares in the final round in the shootout and Buffalo beat New York to earn its first win of the season.

The Sabres were on the verge of their eighth straight loss, which would've set the club's futility mark to start a season, before Foligno rescued them.

Thomas Vanek and Tyler Ennis also scored in the shootout. Miller allowed a goal to Matt Moulson in the first round, but denied Frans Nielsen and Tavares to win it. Buffalo erased three one-goal deficits to finally end its slide. The last came after Tyler Myers kept the puck in the New York zone and got it to Foligno for a screened shot past Evgeni Nabokov. Moulson had deflected in Tavares' shot during a power play with 11:16 remaining in the third to put the Islanders ahead 3-2. New York also got goals from Nielsen in the first period and Matt Martin in the second.

Ennis and Vanek scored for Buffalo in the middle frame.

CANADIENS 3, JETS 0

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Carey Price made 36 saves and Montreal extended its winning streak to three games with the victory over Winnipeg.

It was Price's first shutout of the season and 20th of his career. Ondrej Pavelec stopped 22 shots for the Jets.

Brandon Prust, P.K. Subban and Daniel Briere, with an empty-netter on the power play, scored for Montreal. With a number of fans wearing Habs jerseys in the stands at MTS Centre, the visitors quickly opened the scoring. Briere's shot off the boards led to Prust's goal, as the puck bounced to him at the corner of the net and he poked it in behind Pavelec to make it 1-0 at 2:06 of the first.

LIGHTNING 5, KINGS 1

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Martin St. Louis had two goals and an assist, Ben Bishop improved to 4-0, and Tampa Bay beat Los Angeles.

St. Louis has four goals and 10 points during a five-game point streak. Ryan Malone, Teddy Purcell and Ondrej Palat had the other Tampa Bay goals. □



Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby (87) pokes the puck off the stick of Edmonton Oilers' Taylor Hall (4) during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013. Associated Press

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CHLOE GRACE MORETZ | JULIANNE MOORE
MON - THURS 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20
FRI 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20 | 11:40
SAT 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20

Enough Said
JAMES GANDOLFINI | JULIA LOUIS DREYFUS
MON - THURS 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35
FRI 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SAT 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35

ESCAPE
SYLVESTER STALLONE | AIRMAD SOFIA KATZ
MON - THURS 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:00
FRI 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:00 | 11:30
SAT 2:00 | 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:00 | 11:30
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:00

ALSO SHOWING!

CAPTAIN PHILLIPS
TOM HANKS | BARKHAD ABDI
MON - FRI 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:15
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15

CLLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2
BILL HADER | ANNA FARIS
3D VERSION WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - THURS 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30
FRI 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30 | 10:40
SAT 2:00 | 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30 | 10:40
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30

RUNNER RUNNER
JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE | BEN AFFLECK
MON - THURS 4:55 | 9:25
FRI - SAT 4:55 | 9:25 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 4:55 | 9:25

BATTLE OF THE YEAR
CHRIS BROWN | JOSH PECK
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SAT, SUN & HOL 2:20 | 7:00

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U.S. ends Panama's run with stoppage-time goals

The Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Panama was about 90 seconds from beating the United States and advancing to a playoff against New Zealand for a World Cup berth.

The fans at Estadio Rommel Fernandez in Panama City were ready to start a nationwide celebration.

And then the Americans stunned not just an opponent, but an entire country. Graham Zusi and Aron Johannsson scored in second-half stoppage time as the United States rallied for a 3-2 win that left Mexico's World Cup hopes alive and knocked out the Panamanians.

"It shows you how brutal football can be. For one side that's almost there, and then the other side is back in," U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. "Now obviously you feel for the people. You feel for an entire country."

The United States, which clinched a World Cup berth last month, didn't use most of its regular starters, and Gabriel Torres put Panama ahead in the 18th minute in a downpour. Michael Orozco equalized



Aron Johannsson drives the ball as Panama's Roman Torres follows during a 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match in Panama City, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013.

Associated Press

in the 64th, not long after Costa Rica took a 2-1 lead at home against Mexico in the other qualifier.

Luis Tejada scored in the 83rd, putting Panama back into fourth place and the playoff berth. Mexico,

which last missed the World Cup in 1990, would have been eliminated.

But Zusi scored 1:24 into stoppage time, and Johannsson scored his first international goal with seconds remaining to seal

the U.S. win and Panama's elimination.

"This is just how football writes these crazy, emotional stories, and you're in the middle of it, because we all felt all of a sudden when Graham scored that

header that it was all quiet, silence, and you feel for them," Klinsmann said. "It was a very sad moment for all here in Panama. We understand that."

It was a similar finish to four years ago, when Jonathan Bornstein's goal in the fifth minute of stoppage time at Washington gave the U.S. a 2-2 draw against Costa Rica — that result gave Honduras a World Cup berth and eliminated the Costa Ricans.

The U.S. and Costa Rica already had clinched their World Cup spots last month, and Honduras earned CONCACAF's last automatic spot with a 2-2 draw at last-place Jamaica.

Mexico finished fourth with 11 points, three ahead of Panama, which has never reached football's marquee tournament.

Before allowing the stoppage-time goals, Panama was level in realtime with Mexico on points and goal difference and would have earned the playoff berth based on a 10-7 advantage in goals scored.

"Nobody," Klinsmann said, "expected what happened in the last two minutes." □



Switzerland's Roger Federer celebrates winning the match against Italy's Andreas Seppi for the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at the Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center, in Shanghai, China, Wednesday Oct 9, 2013. Federer won 6-4, 6-3.

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

Toward the end of a tough year with zero Grand Slam final appearances, Roger Federer is splitting with coach Paul Annacone. Federer, who owns a record 17 Grand Slam titles, announced on Saturday on his website that he will

stop working with Annacone after 3 1/2 seasons together.

"After numerous conversations culminating at the end of our most recent training block, we felt like this was the best time and path for both of us," the posting continues.

The move comes only two

Federer, coach Annacone split after 3-plus years

days after Federer's latest surprising loss in a year filled with them: He was beaten 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-3 in the third round of the Shanghai Masters by Gael Monfils, a former top-10 player ranked 42nd and recently back from injury.

The defeat hurt the 32-year-old Federer's chances of qualifying for the season-ending ATP Finals, a tournament that gathers the top eight singles players.

Federer used to be a certainty for the field — he spent more weeks at No. 1 in the ATP rankings than any other man.

But Federer was ranked only No. 7 last Monday and is no longer the dominant presence he was for a decade.

The tournament in China was the first for Federer since his fourth-round exit at the U.S. Open, where he lost to 19th-seeded Tommy Robredo in straight sets on Sept. 3.

"Roger, when he was No. 1, (compared) to the Roger right now," Robredo said that day, "he's not maybe (playing) with the same confidence, no?"

Federer has struggled at times this year with a bad back.

He's also experimented off and on with a larger racket head. He failed to reach at least one final at any of the four Grand Slam tournaments, something that last happened to him in 2002. That year also marked the last time he was ranked

lower than he is now.

He lost in the semifinals at the Australian Open in January, the quarterfinals at the French Open in early June, and the second round of Wimbledon — against a player ranked 116th — in late June. That ended Federer's record run of reaching at least the quarterfinals at 36 consecutive major tournaments. His last Grand Slam championship came in 2012 at Wimbledon, which he won for the record-tying seventh time.

That allowed Federer to return to No. 1 in the rankings, ended a 2 1/2-year major title drought — and marked the lone Grand Slam trophy Federer and Annacone won as a pair. □

Microsoft releasing Windows 8.1, a year in making

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Microsoft is releasing its long-awaited Windows 8.1 upgrade as a free download starting Thursday. It addresses some of the gripes people have had with Windows 8, the dramatically different operating system that attempts to bridge the divide between tablets and PCs.

Windows 8.1 still features the dual worlds that Windows 8 created when it came out last October. On one hand, it features a touch-enabled tile interface resembling what's found in tablet computers. On the other, there's the old desktop mode where the keyboard and mouse still reign. The update adds some new finger- and gesture-friendly shortcuts for touch-based apps, while restoring some respect for the desktop mode that a billion PC users have become accustomed to.

The release comes as sales of traditional desktop and laptop computers continue to decline because consumers are spending money instead on the latest smartphones and tablets. It also comes at a time of transition for Microsoft as the Redmond, Washington, company focuses on devices and services, not just software. Earlier this month, Microsoft struck a deal to acquire Nokia's phone business and patent rights for more than \$7 billion. Microsoft is also searching for a new CEO to replace Steven A. Ballmer, who announced last month that he plans to retire within the next year. The Windows 8.1 update is free for current owners of Windows 8. It's available starting at 7 a.m. (1100 GMT) Thursday in New York, which corresponds to the start of Friday in New Zealand. Simply go to the Windows Store app to find it. It may take a few hours for updates to reach everyone. Computers with Windows 8.1 already installed will go on sale Friday local time. That's also when people will be able

to buy stand-alone copies of Windows 8.1.

The changes range from the cosmetic to improved functionality:

RESTORING RESPECT FOR THE DESKTOP

START ME UP — The Start button is back in desktop mode, although not the way it was before Windows 8 came along. In Windows 7 and before, a click on Start would have brought up programs and important folders in a list. Now, one tap on Start flips you back to the new tile interface, where you can click or tap tiles to open programs. A long press brings up crucial settings such as the Control Panel.

BOOT TO DESKTOP — You can now start up the machine in desktop mode, bypassing the tiles for a short time. That removes some of the headache for companies that want to use Windows 8 but don't want to buy a touch-screen monitor for every employee.

TOUCH AND GESTURE UPDATES

ONSCREEN KEYBOARD SWIPES — The onscreen keyboard now includes the ability to type numbers or punctuation marks by swiping up or away from certain keys on the standard "QWERTY" layout, eliminating the need to toggle between numeric and alphabetic layouts. You can also select from suggested words mid-stream using side swipes and taps on the virtual spacebar.

GESTURE-ENABLED APPS — You can now wave in the air in front of the front-facing camera to get a response. For example, in the new app Bing Food & Drink, a right-to-left wave in "Hands Free Mode" flips through pages of a recipe.

QUICKER TILE ORGANIZING — You can tap and hold Windows tiles with your finger to move them. Another couple taps will allow you to resize them in one of four sizes. In the previous version, you had to go back to the mouse or touchpad and right-click on tiles to do this, and you were limited to two sizes.



This Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013 image shows a pre-release version of Windows 8.1 on a tablet in Los Angeles. Associated Press

EASIER APPS ACCESS — Finding all your apps takes just a swipe up on your start screen, as long as you don't do it from beyond the bottom edge. Before, you had to swipe up from the bottom edge, then tap on the All Apps button.

SMALL CONVENIENCES
AUTOMATIC UPDATES — Apps update in the background, replacing the constant reminders to go to the Windows Store to update the apps yourself.

SMALLER TABLETS — Windows 8.1 now has a home screen that looks good in portrait mode on screens measuring 7 inches to 8 inches diagonally.

LOCK SCREEN ACCESS — You can now answer Skype calls or take photos from the lock screen without having to log in. Just swipe down. You can also set other apps like Twitter to send notifications when the screen is locked.

FUNCTIONAL CHANGES

BETTER MULTITASKING — In Windows 8.1, you can run up to four apps at once side by side, double the previous amount, though you need a large, high-resolution monitor to do so (On its own, Microsoft's Surface tablets are not big enough for more than two). You can resize panes using a slider that moves side to side, instead of being limited to one larger window and one slender one. □

New iPads likely at Apple event next week



A man holds an iPad as he takes self portraits of him with his friends on Tiananmen Square, on the National Day, the 64th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, in Beijing, Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2013. Associated Press

CUPERTINO, California (AP) — Apple is holding an event in San Francisco next week to announce new products — likely updated iPads.

The company announced its most recent iPads around this time last year.

The announcement included a smaller version, called the Mini, for the first time. New iPads would get Apple's latest operating system for mobile devices, iOS 7. The invitation sent Tuesday includes a graphic that mimics the color

scheme in iOS 7.

Next Tuesday's event will take place at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater in San Francisco, a venue Apple has often used in the past.

It follows last month's release of new iPhones with iOS 7 — the 5S model with a fingerprint sensor and a cheaper, 5C model with a variety of color options.

It's also possible Apple will use the event to release its new Mac operating system, Mavericks. Apple unveiled the system in June. The system will support tagging to help you find files more easily. It also promises better battery life and a way to keep track of passwords across multiple devices more easily. Apple may also announce new Mac computers at the event. □

Stocks surge as US debt deal appears to be solid

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street finally got the deal it's been waiting for. A last-minute agreement to keep the U.S. from de-

faulting on its debt and re-open the government sent the stock market soaring Wednesday, pushing the Standard & Poor's 500 index close to a record high. On Wednesday, Senate

leaders agreed to fund the government through Jan. 15 and extend government borrowing through Feb. 7. The Senate deal was reached just hours before a Thursday deadline that

Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew had set to raise the \$16.7 trillion debt limit. The government has been partially shut for 16 days because House Republicans had demanded changes to President Barack Obama's health care law before passing a budget. The agreement follows a month of political gridlock that threatened to make America a deadbeat and derail global financial markets. Investors have stayed largely calm throughout in the current drama in Washington, with the S&P 500 actually gaining 2.4 percent since the shutdown began on Oct. 1. "We knew it was going to be dramatic, but the consequences of a U.S. default are just so severe that the base case was always that a compromise was going to be reached," said Tom Franks, a managing director at TIAA CREF, a large retirement funds manager. Congress was racing to pass the legislation Wednesday. If the deal wraps up soon, investors can turn their attention back to basics like earnings

and the economy. Corporations have begun to report third-quarter earnings, but Wall Street has been glued to the budget brinkmanship. Overall earnings at companies in the S&P 500 index is forecast to grow 3.1 percent from a year earlier, according to data from S&P Capital IQ. That's slower than the growth of 4.9 percent in the second quarter and 5.2 percent in the first quarter. It'll be harder for Wall Street to get an up-to-date view of the economy because the partial government shutdown that began Oct. 1 has kept agencies from releasing key reports on trends like hiring. In general, though, the economy has been expanding this year. Traders have been correctly betting that Washington would reach a deal. To be sure, the Dow went through rough patches over the last month, at one point falling as much as 900 points below an all-time high reached on Sept. 18. The Dow has seen seven triple-digit moves in the last 10 trading days. □



Specialist Christopher Culhane, left, works with traders at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A last-minute agreement to keep the U.S. from defaulting on its debt and reopen the government sent the stock market soaring Wednesday, October 16, 2013.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

JPMorgan to pay \$100M, admit wrongdoing to settle inquiry

BEN PROTESS
JESSICA SILVER-GREEN
BERG

© 2013 New York Times

JPMorgan Chase has agreed to pay \$100 million and make a groundbreaking admission of wrongdoing to settle an investigation into market manipulation involving the bank's multibillion-dollar trading loss in London, a federal regulator announced Wednesday, underscoring how far the bank was willing to go to put the blunder behind it.

The regulator, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, took aim at JPMorgan for trading activity that was so large and voluminous that it violated new rules under the Dodd-Frank Act, the financial regulatory overhaul passed in response to the financial crisis. The trading commission charged the bank with recklessly "employing

a manipulative device" in the market for swaps, financial contracts that allowed the bank to bet on the health of companies like American Airlines. The bank sold "a staggering volume of these swaps in a concentrated period," the trading commission said. Unlike other regulatory actions involving the loss, which focused on porous controls and governance practices at the bank, the pact with the trading commission exposed the bank's actual trading activity. And the case, which brings JPMorgan's tally of fines in the trading loss case to more than \$1 billion, was a first for the trading commission. Until now, the commission had never exercised its authority under Dodd-Frank to combat manipulation. The bank's admission of wrongdoing made the case all the rarer. Banks are typically loath to make

such admissions, fearing that an acknowledgment of bad behavior will open the floodgates to litigation from shareholders. But to resolve the investigation,

JPMorgan took the unusual step of admitting to facts that the trading commission outlined in its order. In doing so, the bank acknowledged that its traders

had acted recklessly. The concession was the latest, and perhaps most significant, phase of a broader policy shift in Washington, where federal regulators are reversing a practice of allowing banks to "neither admit nor deny" wrongdoing. That practice, in place for decades, rankled consumer advocates and lawmakers, who questioned why Wall Street misdeeds generated only token settlements that banks could easily afford.

JPMorgan's admission to the trading commission - coupled with its acknowledgment to the Securities and Exchange Commission last month that "severe breakdowns" had allowed a group of traders in London to run up more than \$6 billion in losses - could provide a template for pursuing other admissions in Wall Street cases. □



David Meister, the enforcement chief of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, at his office in Washington. A month after JPMorgan Chase acknowledged that "severe breakdowns" allowed a group of traders in London to rack up \$6 billion in losses, the bank has preliminarily reached a rare agreement, being worked by Meister, to admit that the trading blowup itself represented reckless behavior, according to people briefed on the negotiations.

(Daniel Rosenbaum/The New York Times)

Fed: Growth slowed in key regions on shutdown fear

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve said economic growth slowed in a few key regions of the United States from September through early October, as businesses grew worried about a budget impasse that led to a partial government shutdown.

Overall, the economy continued to expand at a "modest to moderate" pace, according to the Fed survey released Wednesday. Eight of the Fed's 12 banking districts reported the same growth rate as they had reported in August through early September. But four districts — Philadelphia, Richmond, Chicago and Kansas City — said growth had slowed.

Businesses around the country remained optimistic about the future and consumer spending continued to increase, helped by strong auto sales. But many businesses noted greater uncertainty because of the federal shutdown, which began on Oct. 1, and a looming deadline to raise federal borrowing limit.

Boston, in particular, reported that the tourism industry was worried about the impact of a prolonged shutdown. And several Districts reported that businesses were cautious about hiring.

Senate leaders announced Wednesday that they had an agreement to avert a threatened Treasury default and reopen the government after the 16-day shutdown. The House was likely to approve the measure, too, leading many to anticipate passage in both chambers before the end of the day. Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said that the Fed's survey showed that there had been only limited damage to the economy at least through the first week of the shutdown. "Hopefully ... the damage and the hurt have been generally contained," she said. □

IBM 3Q net income rises 6 pct, beats predictions

NEW YORK (AP) — IBM said Wednesday that its third-quarter net income rose 6 percent, but its revenue fell and missed Wall Street expectations. The company's stock fell in extended trading. The Armonk, New York, computing company earned \$4.04 billion, or \$3.68 per share, up from

\$3.82 billion, or \$3.33 per share, in the same quarter last year. Excluding one-time charges, the company earned \$3.99 per share, above Wall Street's expectation of \$3.96.

Revenue dropped 4 percent to \$23.7 billion from \$24.7 billion. That fell short of the \$24.8 billion expected

by analysts surveyed by FactSet.

In after-market trading, IBM shares fell \$11.23, or 6 percent, to \$175.50. They finished the regular session up \$2.07 at \$186.73.

IBM said results for the July-September period were helped by lower expenses, including the absence

of \$408 million in charges related to job cuts that it logged in the year-ago period.

International Business Machines Corp. said it still expects to post an adjusted 2013 profit of at least \$16.90 per share. Analysts expect earnings of \$16.87 per share. □

EBay 3Q earns top views; revenue misses



An eBay sign is photographed at eBay headquarters in San Jose, Calif. The company reported mixed quarterly earnings on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013. (AP Photo/Ben Margot)

SAN JOSE, California (AP) — eBay's third-quarter earnings edged past analysts' expectations, but revenue rose just short of estimates. The company's profit and revenue outlook for the current quarter through December was also weaker than expected.

Following the release of results Wednesday, eBay's stock fell 4.2 percent to \$51.26 in after-hours trading.

eBay Inc. said net income in the quarter through September grew 15 percent as revenue rose, thanks to increasing mobile transactions in its online marketplaces eBay and StubHub. It also cited growth in the number of people using its PayPal payments processor.

Net income grew to \$689 million, or 53 cents per share, from \$597 million, or 45 cents per share, a year

ago.

Excluding special items, adjusted earnings came to 64 cents per share, a penny better than expected by analysts polled by FactSet.

Revenue rose 14 percent to \$3.89 billion, slightly below the \$3.91 billion analysts were looking for. PayPal revenue grew 19 percent to \$1.6 billion, while the company's "marketplaces" revenue grew 12 per-

cent to \$2 billion. Revenue from its enterprise services business rose 5 percent to \$238 million.

eBay's forecast for the current quarter predicts adjusted earnings of 79 cents to 81 cents per share, below the 83 cents analysts were looking for. The company also said it expects quarterly revenue of \$4.5 billion to \$4.6 billion, while analysts were estimating revenue of \$4.64 billion. □

American Express' 3rd-qtr profit rises 9 percent

ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — American Express says its net income rose 9 percent in the third quarter, as cardholders spent more in the U.S. and elsewhere. The results trumped Wall Street estimates. The New York-based company said Wednesday that spending on its global network jumped 7 percent in the June-September pe-

riod. It also benefited from growth in income from interest charges, as well as card loans. American Express cardholders tend to be more affluent than other credit card users, which is one reason the company has done well as the nation's economy has gradually improved despite a sluggish global economy. Unlike Visa and MasterCard, which only process

transactions, American Express issues its own cards. When cardholders charge more on their AmEx cards, the company earns even more in interest income and a variety of fees.

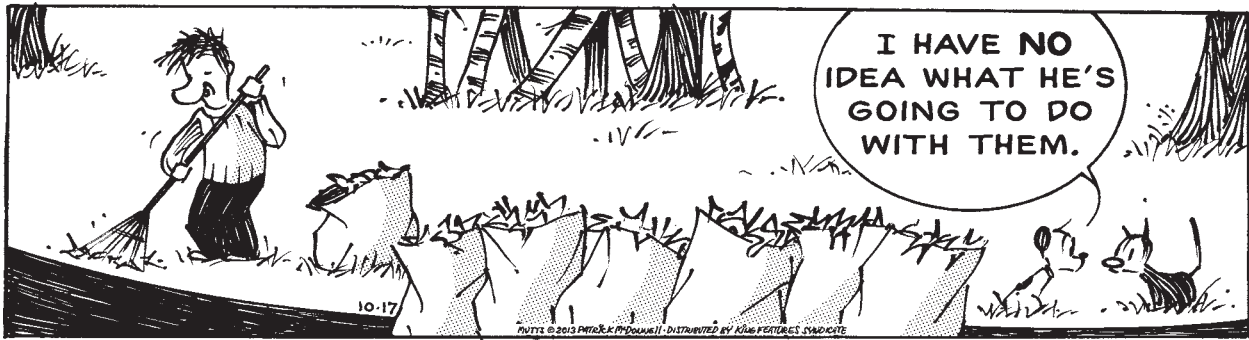
For the three months ended Sept. 30, American Express reported net income of \$1.36 billion, or \$1.25 per share. That compares with net income of \$1.25 billion, or \$1.09 per share, in the

same period last year.

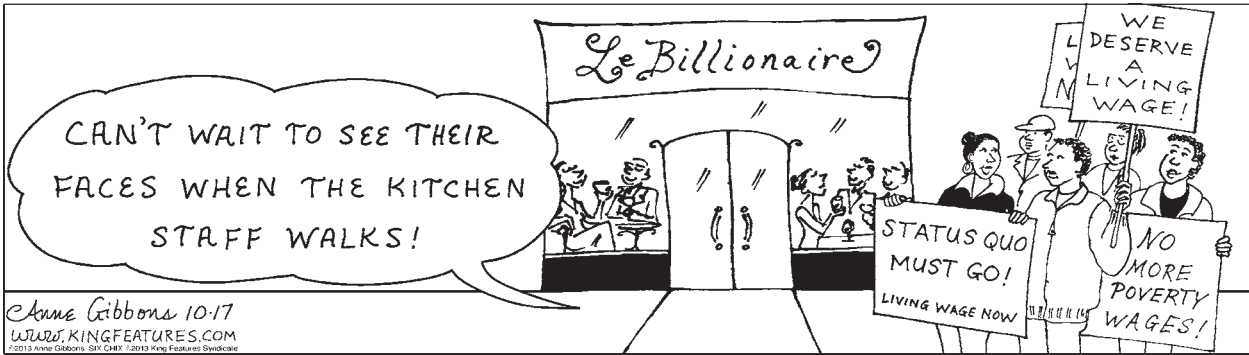
Revenue increased about 6 percent to \$8.3 billion, from about \$7.86 billion.

Analysts polled by FactSet were expecting, on average, earnings of \$1.22 per share on revenue of \$8.23 billion. Shares in American Express ended regular trading up \$1.07 at \$76.32. The stock added 23 cents to \$76.55 in extended trading. □

Mutts



6 Chix



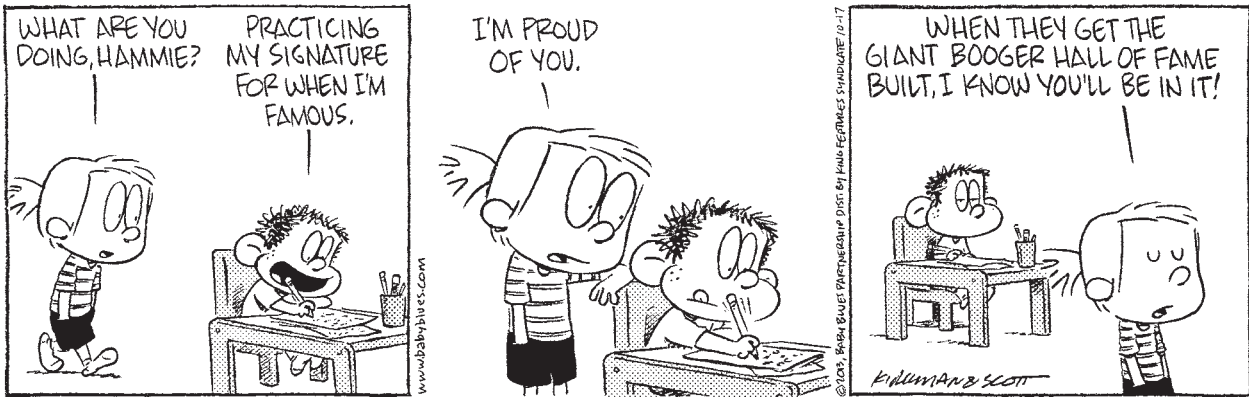
Blondie



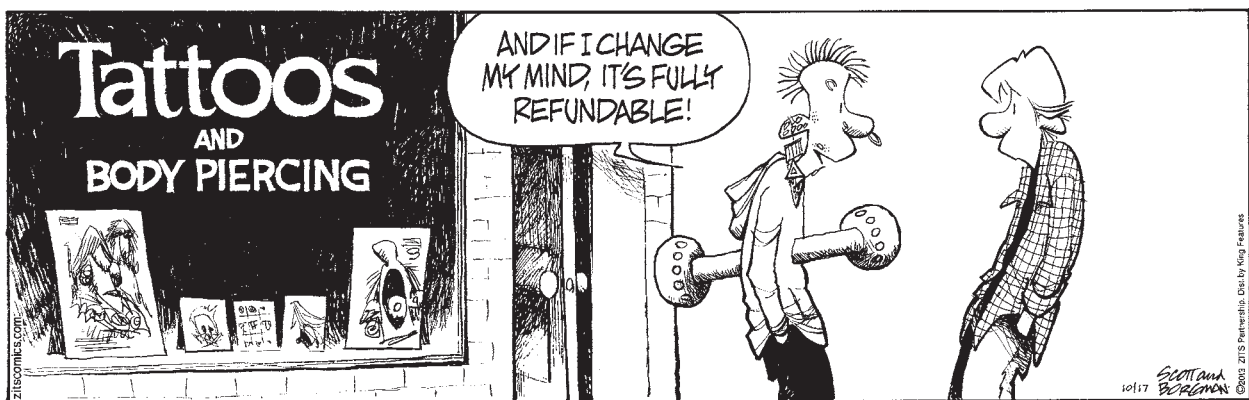
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				8		6	7		
				7			1		
1	7	9					3		
9								5	1
8	3								6
		1					8	9	4
		4			7				
		3	5		8				

Difficulty Level ★★

10/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

9	4	7	2	8	5	6	3	1
5	8	1	3	7	6	2	4	9
2	3	6	9	1	4	5	8	7
6	9	3	5	4	7	8	1	2
4	1	2	6	9	8	3	7	5
7	5	8	1	3	2	4	9	6
1	6	4	7	5	3	9	2	8
8	2	9	4	6	1	7	5	3
3	7	5	8	2	9	1	6	4

Difficulty Level ★★

10/16

ACROSS

- Hooting birds
- Graceful waterfowl
- Short note
- Faucet problem
- Aviator
- Large kitchen appliance
- Have supper
- Still breathing
- Official stamp
- James or Martha
- With bells on
- "... my party and I'll cry if I want to..."
- Ease; alleviate
- Pigs and hogs
- Soon-to-be grads: abbr.
- Instruct
- Distinctive sharp flavor
- Up until now
- Body of water east of Egypt
- Letters before an alias
- Cookbook entries
- "Morning Broken"; Cat Stevens hit
- Population count
- Wally and Courteney
- SAT, for one
- Verb in a bread recipe
- Tavern order
- "... at the Bat"
- Rowdy fight
- Chatter
- Worker
- Dangerous fish
- Toe the line
- Helped
- Daytime serial
- Escape
- Was bold
- Nat King
- Take care of
- Deviously
- Small bills

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
					15									
14														
17					18							19		
20					21			22		23				
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34														
37														
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51	52	53												
58														
62														
65														

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/17/13

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

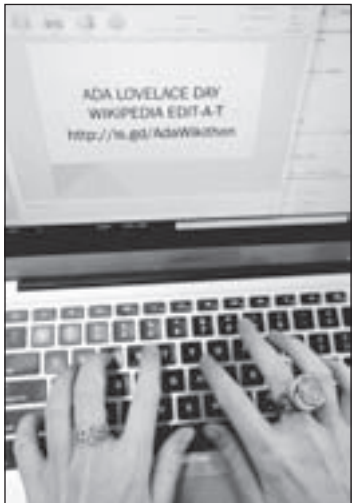
FLOPS	TALL	ESPN
RIVAL	OBOE	MALI
EVERY	TEAM	BRAG
DERANGED	OPIATE	
	DEAD	ANOTHER
STRESS	ASSET	
AYE	SENDS	MENUS
SKIM	SIZES	RENT
SENIOR	CESAR	ADO
	BITES	FARROW
ALLSTAR	FETE	
BOATER	EASTWARD	
DONE	GRAB	RIGID
USER	EARL	ARENA
LESS	TYNE	PESKY

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10/17/13

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 38 More impolite | 51 Upper room |
| 39 Edgar Allan | 52 Competent |
| 42 Cream-colored sled dog | 53 Has-; one no longer popular |
| 44 Hot sauce | 54 Orange rind |
| 46 Antenna | 55 Middy |
| 47 Automobile | 56 Robust |
| 49 Goes first | 57 Primates |
| 50 Slaphappy | 60 Arid |

Women scientists, Wikipedia under microscope in U.S.



In this Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013 photo, Maia Weinstock, of Cambridge, Mass., left, a Brown University graduate, works with Anne Fausto-Sterling, of Cranston, R.I., center, a professor of biology and gender studies, during a Wikipedia "edit-a-thon," on the Brown campus, in Providence, R.I. Associated Press

MICHELLE R. SMITH
Associated Press
PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP) — Look up a female scientist or technologist on Wikipedia, and you might not find what you're looking for. Many don't have detailed pages or any page at all on the free online encyclopedia created by contributors, the vast majority of them men. It's a symptom of a larger problem for women in so-called STEM fields — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — where men far outnumber women. Even women who have done pioneering work in these fields don't always get recognition. Since 2009, no woman has won a Nobel Prize in science. A Brown University biology professor and an alumna hope to help chip away at the problem with a Wikipedia "edit-a-thon," one of many that's been held in recent years to help increase the representation of women on Wikipedia. They gathered dozens of students and some faculty members this week at Brown to train them on how to add and edit pages. They also provided lists of suggestions for women to add, entries to clean up or those who needed more detail, along with links to source material. Among those listed was Ingeborg Hochmair, who does not have a page even though last month she won the prestigious

Lasker Award for medical research for her work developing the modern cochlear implant. By contrast, her husband, Erwin Hochmair, an accomplished engineer who helped develop the device but did not win a Lasker prize, has his own page. Another is Anny Cazenave, who last year won the William Bowie Medal for outstanding contributions to fundamental geophysics. She's on Wikipedia in French, but not English. Maia Weinstock, a Brown graduate, organized the Tuesday event with Anne Fausto-Sterling, a professor of biology and gender studies. They held the training to coincide with Ada Lovelace Day, an annual observance started in Great Britain in 2009 to highlight women in technology and named for the English mathematician who died in 1852. Lovelace is often described as the world's first computer programmer. Weinstock, who has run other edit-a-thons for different fields, said she's targeting Wikipedia because it's so influential and is one of the most popular encyclopedias in the world. It's the first place many people go to find out about a subject. "You're helping change what everybody else gets to see on a particular topic," she told trainees. She said she also hopes to increase the number of women who contribute to

Wikipedia. Fewer than 20 percent of Wikipedia editors are women. Sara Hartse and Jacqueline Gu, both Brown freshmen and computer science students, said they first became aware of gender inequity on Wikipedia during an uproar in the spring when someone began systematically moving female novelists including Harper Lee and Ann Rice off the "American Novelists" page and onto the "American Women Novelists" subcategory. They've both seen big gender imbalances in science and technology classes and activities and heard their female computer science professor bemoan the fact that talented women often leave the field. Neither had edited a Wikipedia page before this week, but spent the evening cleaning up and adding details to pages for botanist Katherine Esau and oceanographer Sylvia Earle. "I like this because it's about empowering women to contribute to this," Hartse said. "It's a good feedback loop." □



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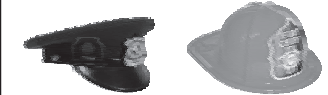


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Women in Difficulties
Foundation
Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba
Tel: 587-0002

U.S. shutdown threatens hopes for Antarctic reserve

NICK PERRY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand

(AP) — The U.S. government shutdown is threatening a long-awaited deal to create the world's largest marine sanctuary in Antarctica. Americans are among the most enthusiastic proponents, but they might not make it to the negotiating table.

The U.S., New Zealand and other countries have sought a sanctuary in the pristine waters of the Ross Sea for the past decade, and there are hopes that previous objectors Russia and Ukraine will agree to a new, smaller proposal when the nations that regulate Antarctic fishing meet next week in Hobart, Australia.

On Wednesday, Secretary of State John Kerry joined his counterparts from other nations in calling for the sanctuary to proceed. But the U.S. had apparently already suspended travel plans for its delegation. If they don't make it, the proposal probably will be put on hold until next year at least.

Gerry Leape, a senior international policy expert at



In this Dec. 1, 2009 file photo provided by Aurora Expeditions, an inflatable boat carries tourists past an iceberg along the Antarctic Peninsula.

Associated Press

Pew Charitable Trusts, said he's spoken to members of the U.S. delegation and he understands that their travel has been suspended because of the shutdown. David Edginton, a spokesman with the U.S. Embassy in Wellington, said he was unable to comment on whether the U.S. delegation will be traveling to Australia.

Leape said the suspension could be lifted on short notice, either if the shutdown ends or if the delegation gets special permission to travel. Under normal circumstances, he said, the delegation would already be in Australia and working its diplomatic channels in pre-meetings.

"It would be a real missed opportunity if the U.S. isn't

able to go," he said. "I hope the situation changes, but they haven't come to an agreement yet."

Jointly proposed by the U.S. and New Zealand, the 1.34 million-square-kilometer (517,000-square-mile) sanctuary would be twice the size of Texas and the world's largest stretch of protected ocean.

Progress on the sanctuary

has already been painfully slow. The nations that make decisions about Antarctic fishing — 24 countries plus the European Union — do so only by unanimous agreement. A proposal for a larger sanctuary failed in July when Russia and the Ukraine, which have fishing interests in the region, raised objections.

The U.S. and New Zealand revised their plans, reducing the sanctuary's proposed size by 40 percent. Environmental groups including Pew criticized the changes initially but have come to embrace the current proposal.

Next week the Antarctic nations also plan to consider a separate proposal to create a series of smaller marine reserves in East Antarctica. Those areas would come with less stringent protections than those in the Ross Sea proposal.

People involved in the negotiations say Russia remains the key to completing the Ross Sea agreement, with Ukraine likely to follow Moscow's lead.

New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully said Wednesday that Russia was ready to talk.

"I'm aware that there are some plans for dialogue with the Russian delegation, which is an encouraging sign," he said. "We are certainly moving in a better direction than we have been previously."

Members of the Russian delegation didn't respond to emails from The Associated Press.

The head of the U.S. delegation, Evan Bloom, said in an interview last month that the size of the proposed sanctuary was reduced based on the findings of a committee which gives scientific advice to the nations, and that it remained faithful to the original objectives.

"One has to make tactical decisions in negotiations," said Bloom, the director of the U.S. State Department's Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs. "I still think the proposal is very strong, very robust, very pro-conservation, and viable." □

Giant chunk of Russian meteorite found in lake

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian scientists have recovered a giant chunk of the Chelyabinsk meteorite from the bottom of the lake it crashed into.

The meteor that blazed across southern Urals in February was the largest recorded strike in more than a century. More than 1,600 people were injured by the shock wave from the explosion as it hit near the city of Chelyabinsk, estimated to be as strong as 20 Hiroshima atomic bombs. Scientists on Wednesday recovered what could be the largest part of the meteorite from Chebarkul Lake outside the city. They weighed it using a giant steelyard balance, which displayed 570 kilograms (1,256 pounds) before breaking.

Sergei Zamozdra, an as-



People look at what scientists believe to be a chunk of the Chelyabinsk meteor, recovered from Chebarkul Lake near Chelyabinsk, about 1500 kilometers (930 miles) east of Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013.

Associated Press

sociate professor at Chelyabinsk State University,

told Russian television the excavated fragment was

definitely a chunk of the meteorite. □

Nirvana, Ronstadt among Rock Hall of Fame noms

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— Nirvana, Linda Ronstadt, Peter Gabriel, Hall and Oates, and The Replacements are among first-time nominees to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The hall of fame announced its annual list of nominees Wednesday morning and half the field of 16 were first-time nominees. YES, Link Wray and The Zombies also received their first nominations.

More than 600 voters will determine the class of 2014. Inductees will be announced in December and a ceremony will be held next April in New York. The induction will be aired on HBO in May.

Nirvana is nominated in its first year of eligibility. If selected for induction, the band would enter the hall of fame almost exactly 20 years after frontman Kurt Cobain's suicide at age 27.

Ronstadt receives her first nomination not long after she shared news that she has Parkinson's disease. Fans have long questioned her absence from the hall's roster of stars. Similarly, long-denied YES joins the list after Rush finally struck a blow for prog rock with its induction earlier this year. □



In this Sept. 22, 2013 file photo, LL Cool J arrives at the 65th Primetime Emmy Awards at Nokia Theatre, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

Minaj channels high-end faves for affordable line

NICOLE EVATT
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nicki Minaj knows celebrities-turned-designers aren't always taken seriously in the fashion world, but she doesn't mind.

At a launch event Tuesday for her Kmart collection, Minaj said skepticism of stars lacking formal design training is "understandable," but she insists it's "not about being a designer."

The "Starships" rapper says her intention is simply to make clothes that she would love to wear.

The line for Kmart and sho-



Nicki Minaj launches her fashion line at Kmart on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

pyourway.com features midriff-baring tops, patterned leggings and curve-hugging dresses, as well as jewelry, clutches and bejeweled caps.

There's also a pink velour track suit and a faux fur trapper hat. □



In this Sept. 22, 2011 file photo released by the United Nations Foundation, Ronan Farrow, Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Global Youth Issues, speaks during the Social Good Summit in New York. Associated Press

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A book deal, tabloid attention and now a new television show — it's a busy time in the public eye for 25-year-old Ronan Farrow.

MSNBC announced Wednesday that it had hired Mia Farrow's son, a human rights activist and former Rhodes scholar, to

MSNBC hires Mia Farrow's son Ronan

host a weekday program on the left-leaning cable television network starting sometime next year.

MSNBC chief executive Phil Griffin said that Farrow's show "will be a game changer for MSNBC, representing a fresh approach to how we deliver news."

He didn't specify what he meant. MSNBC has struggled in the ratings in the post-election period.

Farrow, in a statement, said he was excited to shake up people's expectations for cable news.

"This is a new generation of news show for a new, more engaged generation of viewers," he said. "It's a show about why the news matters to you — and what

you can do to be part of the story."

Farrow, a Yale Law School graduate, founded the U.S. State Department's Office of Global Youth Issues during President Barack Obama's first term. On Tuesday, the Penguin Press announced that it would publish a book by Farrow, "Pandora's Box: How American Military Aid Creates America's Enemies," in 2015.

Farrow also made headlines recently when his mother suggested in an interview with Vanity Fair that he could be the son of Frank Sinatra, not Woody Allen, as was long assumed. Allen has called the claim absurd. □

Book offers juicy peak inside Johnny Carson's life

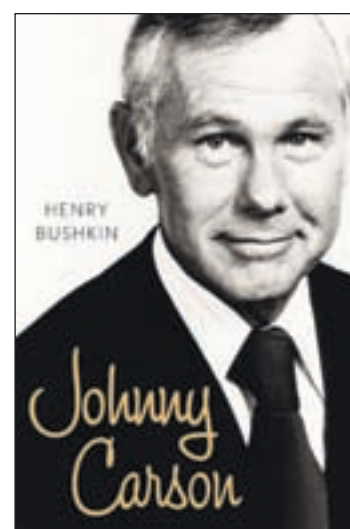
DOUGLASS K. DANIEL
Associated Press

Hell hath no fury like a lawyer scorned.

"You must never, ever repeat a word from last night," Johnny Carson told Henry Bushkin after sobering up from a barstool confessional. Bushkin gave a lawyerly assurance to "The Tonight Show" host, saying in part, "I would lose my license if during your lifetime I repeated it to a soul."

Maybe Carson's head hurt too much to catch that little caveat. Had he noticed the words "in your lifetime," the entertainer might not have been so keen on hiring a 27-year-old lawyer who likely would outlive him and might one day reveal his personal and professional blemishes.

Is Bushkin's writing about his famously private client an act of betrayal tinged with revenge? Carson did fire him after nearly two decades of devoted service. Putting that matter aside, few books like "Johnny Carson" have been more engrossing. It's not just a juicy peek inside a celeb-



This image provided by Eamon Dolan/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt shows the book cover of Henry Bushkin's "Johnny Carson," which offers a peak inside the TV host's life. Associated Press

Associated Press

riety's life from the view of a hanger-on. Bushkin's memoir is also a well-written corporate tale that reveals the tough business of staying America's favorite late-night host, full of stories of money, sex and skullduggery, peppered with plenty of laughs.

Bushkin began handling Carson's affairs in 1970. Carson needed additional

legal advice on how to execute a pre-emptive strike on his second wife (there would be two more). Bushkin writes that he proved himself by joining Carson, who was armed with a .38-caliber handgun, and a few others in a raid on the love nest shared by Mrs. Carson and athlete turned sportscaster Frank Gifford. Packing heat didn't protect Carson's emotions: He wept when he realized that he was indeed losing another wife.

Not that Carson had to worry about being lonely — just being careful. Sometime around 1970 his skirt-chasing earned him a beating from a mobster's entourage and a contract on his life. Bushkin says some high-level talks allowed Carson to walk the streets of New York again without fear of being killed for hitting on the wrong guy's girl.

Family and finances were sore spots for Carson. His mercilessly cool mother remained unfazed and unappreciative of his incredible success. □

In 'Letter 44,' a secret threatens a U.S. president

MATT MOORE
Associated Press

Secrets abound in America, but none on the scale as those revealed in the pages of Charles Soule's "Letter 44," a series where humanity finds the stars hold not just ambition, but a threat kept hidden.

The first issue of the series published by Portland, Oregon-based Oni Press Inc. was released Wednesday. It's illustrated by Alberto Jimenez Albuquerque, colored by Guy Major, lettered by Shawn DePasquale and edited by Jill Beaton.

Soule says the new series is a measured essay on the human spirit, and the quest for knowledge knowing that there is life up there and it may not be friendly. The story centers on President Stephen Blades who is told about the existence of an alien presence kept secret for years by his predecessor. It's in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, it's unclassifiable, it won't communicate and it may be girding for war.

From there, it's one truth after another and it changes everything for Blades as a leader, citizen, father and person.

Soule said the idea sprang forth in early 2011 about the time "when it was pretty clear that the last space shuttle mission was going to happen soon. The U.S. as a space power was going to change, dramatically."

Inspired by that change, he was walking along the beach in Cape May, New Jersey, and pondering what it would take for America, among others, to get back to the stars.

"I wanted to write the story about what we could do and, if we really need to, could we get back up there? What would be the incentive? In the 1960s, it was the Cold War and the space race," Soule said. "What could take us up there? The idea of aliens



This image provided by Oni Press shows two versions of the cover of Charles Soule's "Letter 44," a series where humanity finds the stars hold not just ambition, but a threat kept hidden.

Associated Press



being up there, and then it all fell into place."

And so it does, with Soule's story focusing not just on Blades and the political ramifications of knowing what's up there, but also the crew of the spaceship Clarke, which is poised to make the first, human contact with whatever is there. Soule said the pieces of both plots will come together, over the course of the series, and "everything will make sense," he says. "Even some of the weird stuff." □



Actor Chiwetel Ejiofor arrives on the red carpet of the special screening of "12 Years A Slave" at the Directors Guild of America on Monday, Oct. 14, 2013 in West Hollywood, Calif.

Associated Press

A pronounced rise for Ejiofor in '12 Years'

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

TORONTO (AP) — Chiwetel Ejiofor arrived, he thought, prepared for the first day of shooting "12 Years A Slave." To play Solomon Northup, a free man from upstate New York who was kidnapped and sold into slavery and who later chronicled his experience in a book, Ejiofor had studied Northup's memoir, visited plantations and learned how to, as Northup did, play the violin. But all that work could scarcely ready him for the intense reality of performing a slave's labor in a Louisiana summer.

"Then you're there on the first day and it's 108 degrees and you're picking cotton," said Ejiofor in an interview at last month's Toronto Film Festival. "How is that accomplishable? I don't know how to do this without delirium setting in. Then you realize: Now we're in it. This is what this is. It is a delirium. It is down the rabbit hole."

Ejiofor's titanic and steadfast performance in Steve McQueen's unblinking por-

trait of mid-19th century slavery has already been hailed as the performance of Ejiofor's career. After Fox Searchlight releases the film Friday, Ejiofor is likely to become a fixture on the fall awards circuit, a best-actor Oscar nominee and a name pronounced with considerably more familiarity. (It's CHOO-ih-tell EDGE-ee-oh-for.)

Many have already known the 36-year-old British actor's strong, sensitive presence from Stephen Frears' "Dirty Pretty Things," Alfonso Cuarón's "Children of Men" or, on the London stage, as an acclaimed Othello. But "12 Years a Slave," which Ejiofor initially hesitated at taking on, is unique in its challenges.

The film brings audiences along on Northup's nightmarish journey, taken from his family in Saratoga Springs, shipped south and traded among plantations of varied ugliness. (Michael Fassbender plays Edwin Epps, an especially monstrous cotton plantation owner.) The film, perhaps more than any before, de-

picts the plain, inhumane realities of slavery, including long takes of a beating and when Northup was left hanging by a noose all day long, tiptoeing frantically to stay alive. One expects such a psychological descent to scar an actor, but playing Northup had the opposite effect on Ejiofor.

"I felt enriched by being in Solomon's shoes for so long," he says. "Going to that place was so fascinating and there was such a strength and dignity and duty to Solomon and his soul and his survival instinct that I felt there was as much to take away from it that was redemptive as there was that was harsh or difficult." With deep, soulful eyes, Ejiofor captures Northup's indomitability, his undiminished integrity. McQueen, the British director of "Hunger" and "Shame," compares Ejiofor's dignified gentleness to Sidney Poitier.

"There's a humanity to him, which would obviously be tested to a breaking point in this film," says McQueen. □

World Without Privacy



JOE NOCERA
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In his great and prophetic novel "1984," George Orwell laid out his vision of what totalitarianism would look like if taken to its logical extreme. The government - in the form of Big Brother - sees all and knows all. The Party rewrites the past and controls the present. Heretics pop up on television screens so they can be denounced by the populace. And the Ministry of Truth propagates the Party's three slogans:

WAR IS PEACE.

FREEDOM IS SLAVERY.

IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH.

Dave Eggers' new novel, "The Circle," also has three short, Orwellian slogans, and while I have no special insight into whether he consciously modeled "The Circle" on "1984," I do know that his book could wind up being every bit as prophetic. Eggers' subject is what the loss of privacy would look like if taken to its logical extreme. His focus is not on government but on the technology companies who invade our privacy on a daily basis. The Circle, you see, is a Silicon Valley company, an evil hybrid of Google, Facebook and Twitter, whose cultures - the freebies, the workaholicism, the faux friendliness - Eggers captures with only slight exaggeration.

The Circle has enormous power because it has become the primary gateway to the Internet. Thanks to its near-monopoly, it is able to collect reams of data about everyone who uses its services - and many who don't - data that allows The Circle to track anyone down in a matter of minutes. It has begun planting small, hidden cameras in various places - to reduce crime, its leaders insist. The Circle wants to place chips in children to prevent abductions, it says. It has called on governments to be "transparent," by which it means that legislators should wear a tiny camera that allows the world to watch their every move. Eventually, legislators who refuse find themselves under suspicion - after all, they must be hiding something. This is where The Circle's logic leads. Of course, nobody who works for The Circle thinks what he or she is doing is evil. On the contrary, like many a real Silicon Valley executive, they view

themselves as visionaries, whose only goal is benign: to make the world a better place.

"We're at the dawn of the Second Enlightenment," says one of The Circle's founders in a speech to the staff. "I'm talking about an era where we don't allow the majority of human thought and action and achievement and learning to escape as if from a leaky bucket." It believes if it can eliminate secrecy people will be forced to be their best selves all the time. It even toys with the idea of getting the government to require voters to use The Circle - to force them to vote on Election Day.

And, of course, it has found multiple ways to monetize the data it collects. As for the potential downside of this loss of privacy, it is waved away by Circle executives as if too trifling to even consider.

Is this vision of the future far-fetched? Of course it is - though no more than "1984" was. "The Circle" imagines where we could end up if we don't begin paying attention. Indeed, what is striking is how far down this road we have already gone. Thanks to Edward Snowden, we know that the National Security Agency has the ability to read our emails and listen to our phone calls. Google shows us ads based on words we use in our Gmail accounts. Last week, Facebook - which has, in shades of Orwell, a chief privacy officer - removed a privacy setting so that any Facebook user can search for any other Facebook user. The next day, Google unveiled a plan that would make it possible for the company to use its customers' words and likeness in ads for products they like - information that Google knows because, well, Google knows everything.

So, yes, while we're not in Eggers' territory yet, we are getting closer.

I don't have either a Facebook or a Twitter account, yet every few days I get an email from one of the two companies saying that so-and-so is waiting for me to join them in social media land.

The people it picks as my potential "friends" are very often people with whom I've never been a true colleague, but I've briefly met at some point in my life. It is creepy to me that the companies know that I know these particular people.

"If you have something that you don't want anyone to know," Eric Schmidt, the former chief executive of Google, once said, "maybe you shouldn't be doing it in the first place." That line could easily have been uttered by one of Dave Eggers' characters. That is the thought-process that could someday cost us our last shred of privacy. "The Circle" is a warning.

(And in case you're wondering, here are The Circle's three slogans:

SHARING IS CARING.

SECRETS ARE LIES.

PRIVACY IS THEFT.)□



Sorry, Kids. We Ate It All.



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
© 2013 New York Times

Eventually this shutdown crisis will end. And eventually the two parties will make another stab at a deal on taxes, investments and entitlements. But there's one outcome from such negotiations that I can absolutely guarantee: Seniors, Wall Street and unions will all have their say and their interests protected. So the most likely result will be more tinkering around the edges, as our politicians run for the hills the minute someone accuses them of "fixing the deficit on the backs of the elderly" or creating "death panels" to sensibly allocate end-of-life health care. Could this time be different? Short of an economic meltdown, there is only one thing that might produce meaningful change: a mass movement for tax, spending and entitlement reform led by the cohort that is the least organized but will be the most affected if we don't think long term - today's young people.

Whether they realize it or not, they're the ones who will really get hit by all the cans we're kicking down the road. After we baby boomers get done retiring - at a rate of 7,000 to 11,000 a day - if current taxes and entitlement promises are not reformed, the cupboard will be largely bare for today's Facebook generation. But what are the chances of them getting out of Facebook and into their parents' faces - and demanding not only that the wealthy do their part but that the next generation as a whole leaves something for this one? Too bad young people aren't paying attention. Or are they?

Wait! Who is that speaking to

crowds of students at Berkeley, Stanford, Brown, USC, Bowdoin, Notre Dame and NYU - urging these "future seniors" to start a movement to protect their interests? That's Stan Druckenmiller, the legendary investor who made a fortune predicting the subprime bust, often accompanied by Geoffrey Canada, the president of the Harlem Children's Zone, of which Druckenmiller is the biggest funder. What are they doing on a Mick Jagger-like college tour where they don't sing, don't dance, and just go through a set of charts showing young people how badly they'll be hammered if our current taxes, growth rates, defense spending and entitlements stay where they are?

"My generation - we brought down the president in the '60s because we didn't want to go into the war against Vietnam," Druckenmiller told an overflow crowd at Notre Dame last week. "People say young people don't vote; young people don't care. I'm hoping after tonight, you will care. There is a clear danger to you and your children." Whenever Druckenmiller (a friend) is challenged by seniors, who also come to his talks, that he is trying to start an intergenerational war, he has a standard reply: "No, that war already happened, and the kids lost. We're just trying to recover some scraps for them."

With graph after graph, they show how government spending, investments, entitlements and poverty alleviation have overwhelmingly benefited the elderly since the 1960s and how the situation will only get worse as our over-65 population soars 100 percent between now and 2050, while the working population that will have to support them - ages 18 to 64 - will grow by 17 percent. This imbalance will lead to a huge burden on the young and, without greater growth, necessitate cutting the very government investments in infrastructure, Head Start, and medical and technology research that help the poorest and also create the jobs of the future.

Druckenmiller is not looking to get his taxes cut. He considers Social Security and Medicare great achievements for how they've reduced poverty among the elderly. He and Canada are simply convinced that only a Vietnam-war-scale movement by the young can break through the web of special interests to force politicians to put in place the reforms that would actually secure both today's seniors and future seniors, today's middle class and the wanna-be middle class. (Watch their NYU presentation: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbgliAnpcPc>).

Druckenmiller urges young people to design their own solutions, but, when asked, he recommends: raising taxes on capital gains, dividends and carried interest - now hugely weighted to the wealthy and elderly - to make them equal to earned income taxes; making all consumers more price sensitive when obtaining health care; means-testing Social Security and Medicare so they go to those most in need; phasing in higher age qualifications for entitlements and cutting corporate taxes to zero, so the people who actually create jobs will have more resources to do so.

At the Harlem Children's Zone, explains Canada, "we have made a promise to all of our children: You play by the rules, do well in school, avoid drugs, gangs, crime and teenage pregnancy, and we will get you into college and on your way down the path of the middle class" and toward a future of financial security. But, he adds, "the current spending on my generation - I'm 61 - if it continues unabated, will erase any chance my children will have the safety net of social, education and health services they will need. It seems deeply offensive to me that we will be asking these poor children from Harlem to subsidize a generation that is, by and large, more well-off than they are, and then leave them deeply indebted in an America that had eaten the seed corn of the next generation."□

Booming US oil towns prepare for inevitable bust

**JAMES MacPHERSON
RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI
Associated Press**

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — In a faded West Texas town dotted with vacant buildings and potholed streets is a sparkling storefront window and a curious display: rows of diamond-studded Rolex watches, awaiting buyers whose pockets are packed with oil money. The surge in oil drilling has drawn money and men like a magnet to run-down communities that haven't seen a boom since the 1980s. But leaders and residents

shout, as a reminder to his own neighbors and a warning to communities in Pennsylvania and elsewhere that have never boomed like this, let alone endured a bust on par with the one Texas experienced a generation ago. For now, Midland is the picture of prosperity. Since 2008, sales tax revenue has shot up from \$24 million a year to more than \$38 million in 2013. The unemployment rate is the lowest in Texas, hovering just above 3 percent. The town has hundreds of unfilled jobs. A local Subway fast-food

as street repairs. Police officers are hired piecemeal, two or three a year, as the population increases. Instead of using municipal money to lure an investor to build a proposed high-rise project, the city will instead provide an 80 percent tax break on revenues for five years. "Companies don't screw up in bad times. They screw up in good times. Same for cities," Perry said. That lesson was learned a generation ago. Midland and Odessa, along with parts of North Dakota, boomed in the late 1970s.

day the First National Bank of Midland, which loaned money so people could finance lavish lifestyles, collapsed under the weight of a plummeting oil market. The "majors" — or big oil companies — fled for greener pastures abroad. The most recent boom has largely been ushered in by new hydraulic fracturing technologies combined with horizontal drilling. Those systems allow once out-of-reach oil and gas to be extracted from rock. The big boys are back, and Midland and Odessa have seen their populations rise

money, but they're wiser," she added, sitting in the darkened tavern and restaurant where local lore says countless multimillion-dollar oil deals have been cut on the backs of napkins and with a handshake over a beer. Rolls Royce hasn't reopened its dealership. There aren't as many mansions going up. And Perry is taking heat for offering tax breaks for the proposed high-rise. "They've been through this before. They believe when this happens, the bust is upon us," Perry said. Just ask those in North Dakota's oil patch. Williston, in the heart of the Bakken shale petroleum reserves, was left in the 1980s with \$28 million in debt and saddled with abandoned trailer parks. But now the state leads America in population growth, boasts a nearly \$2 billion budget surplus and has the lowest jobless rate in the nation, as well as 21,000 unfilled positions. A study released in July estimates Williston's population has doubled since the 2010 census to between 25,000 and 33,000 people. And that may not account for all those in "man camps," the hastily built communities of tents and trailers that house thousands of oil workers. Mayor Ward Koeser believes the city is doing a better job than it did in the 1970s. "The big thing is it's given us opportunity," he said. "We were too small and too remote to make things happen without it."



A pump jack works beside the site of new home construction, in Midland, Texas. The West Texas town is in the middle of an oil boom with thousands of workers in need of housing. Experts look to similar booms in predicting future busts.

(AP Photo/Pat Sullivan)

here are increasingly mindful that the runaway riches tapped by hydraulic fracturing will eventually run out. And they are determined to live by a fondly remembered bumper sticker from the last bust: Please, God, give me another oil boom and I promise not to blow it. So some towns are taking steps to ensure they land softly rather than crash into economic ruin. "Don't go overboard. It's not going to last," Midland Mayor Wes Perry wants to

restaurant pays \$15 an hour with a \$1,000 starting bonus. Housing is so scarce that modest hotel rooms go for \$300 a night. This, longtime residents know, is what an oil boom looks like. And it's always been followed by a steep, painful decline. When the energy market finally fades, the town wants to avoid being burdened with crushing debt or too many employees. So sales tax revenue is used only for one-time projects, such

The windfall enabled people to buy jets and Rolls-Royces and build mansions and lakefront homes. Then in the early 1980s, the bottom fell out of the oil barrel. The same people went bankrupt. Home foreclosures skyrocketed. Banks failed. People moved away. Homes and downtown buildings were abandoned. "It was awful to live through that," the mayor said, recalling "Black Friday" — Oct. 14, 1983. That is the

by at least 10 percent since 2010, not counting all those living in trailers or trucks. It's the newcomers, suddenly earning \$2,000 and more a week, who are spending, said Judy Farris, general manager of The Bar in Midland and a lifelong resident. "You can tell the difference between the people who have been here and been through it and those that haven't," said the 58-year-old. "People are enjoying their

Some decisions, however, indicate memory may be short. Williston is building a community center so large a Walmart Supercenter could fit inside. Funded by the city's sales tax collections, it will have an Olympic-size swimming pool, basketball and tennis courts, a running track, a golf simulator and other features. It's designed to keep oilmen busy when they aren't working and encourage their families to move in, Koeser said. □